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HISTORY
OF
THE OXFORDSHIRE REGIMENT
OF MILITIA

(FOURTH BATTALION OXFORDSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY)

1778—1900



Frontispiece

HISTORY
OF THE
OXFORDSHIRE REGIMENT
OF
MILITIA

(FOURTH BATTALION OXFORDSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY)

1778—1900

INCLUDING THE DIARY OF THE LATE
LIEUT.-COL. THOMAS MOSLEY CROWDER, 1852-1885 

BY

LIEUT.-COL. FRANK WILLAN

FOURTH OXFORDSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

Oxford

HORACE HART, PRINTER TO THE UNIVERSITY

1900

P R E F A C E

SOME explanation is, I think, necessary of the circumstances under which I have attempted to write this short, and, I fear, imperfect history of the 4th Oxfordshire Light Infantry Militia.

The late Lieutenant-Colonel T. M. Crowder joined the Regiment as a subaltern officer in 1857, and served in it until (being at the time senior Major and honorary Lieutenant-Colonel) he was compelled, in 1885, to retire under the age regulations.

He died at Oxford, October 22, 1892, universally beloved and respected by all who knew him, having for several years occupied the post of Bursar of Corpus Christi College. No officer, during the time he was in the Regiment, and also after he had retired, could have taken a greater interest in its efficiency and good name than he did. Thomas Mosley Crowder was a born soldier, and had he entered the regular army instead of the Militia force, he would have undoubtedly distinguished himself in it. All those who knew him intimately will, I am confident, endorse this opinion.

He did indeed accomplish excellent work in 1862-4 in New Brunswick, having taken a prominent part in organizing and training the Militia in that dependency, at the request of Sir Arthur Gordon, who was at that time the Governor.

Some time after Colonel Crowder's death a desire was

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expressed by many of the past and present officers of the Battalion that a diary which he had written (and which he had expressed a wish should be, at his death, handed over to the Regimental Mess) might be printed and published, first as a memento of an old friend, and secondly as a record of the movements of and changes in the Battalion during an extended period.

With this in view the manuscript was placed in the hands of a literary gentleman, who after doing little or nothing towards preparing it for publication whilst in his hands, was taken ill and eventually died.

For a considerable time nothing more was done in the matter. A general opinion, however, having been expressed at a Mess meeting held during the training of 1898 that some further attempt should be made to publish the diary, I volunteered to undertake the work.

I therefore ask for the indulgence and merciful consideration of those who peruse this volume, on the ground that I only rushed into the breach as a volunteer, without any pretension to literary talent.

I have thought it necessary to commence with as much of the ancient history of the Oxfordshire Militia as I have been able to lay hands on; but it is much to be regretted that the Order, Court Martial, and other books of the Regiment were destroyed about 1860, and that the records of the county Militia, which Colonel Lord Charles Spencer possessed, were also unfortunately destroyed when Wheatfield House was burnt by fire on January 1, 1814.

I have, however, received assistance from some old papers in the hands of his descendant, Mr. A. J. Spencer, and from the pamphlet published by the late Mr. J. M. Davenport, which was also briefly alluded to by Colonel Crowder in the beginning of his diary.

Colonel Crowder's 'Diary' is next given, as much as possible in his own words, a few paragraphs on matter which would not be found of general interest having been omitted.

Some account of the annual trainings of the Regiment since Colonel Crowder's retirement up to the present time has been appended, with a list of the officers who have at any time served in it, and the places where it has been stationed.

My old friend Mr. T. M. Davenport, the present Clerk of the Peace and Clerk to the County Council of Oxfordshire, has rendered me great assistance by allowing me to peruse some of the old county records, and has also kindly given me permission to make use of extracts from the pamphlet on the county Militia, compiled by his father for private circulation in 1869.

F. W.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	I
FORMATION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE REGIMENT, 1778-1852	8
COLONEL CROWDER'S DIARY, 1852-1885	56
ANNUAL TRAININGS, 1886-1899	123
LIST OF OFFICERS, 1778-1899	165
COMMANDING OFFICERS	184
PERIODS DURING WHICH THE REGIMENT HAS BEEN EMBODIED .	184
PLACES WHERE THE REGIMENT HAS BEEN STATIONED . .	184
APPENDIX	187

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<p> PORTRAITS OF COL. C. RIVERS BULKELEY, LIEUT.- COL. F. WILLAN, AND LIEUT.-COL. H. C. FORTESCUE </p>	<p> <i>Frontispiece</i> </p>
<p> EXECUTION OF PRIVATES COOKE AND PARISH, GOLD- STONE BOTTOM, NEAR BRIGHTON, JUNE 14, 1795 </p>	<p> <i>To face page 30</i> </p>
<p> GRAVES OF MEN ON SLOPE OF DOVER CASTLE . </p>	<p> „ „ 41 </p>
<p> COLOURS OF EASTERN DIVISION OF LOCAL MILITIA, 1808 </p>	<p> „ „ 50 </p>
<p> COLOURS PRESENTED MAY, 1855, AND CARRIED TILL 1883 </p>	<p> „ „ 61 </p>
<p> OLD COLOURS CARRIED FROM FORMATION OF REGI- MENT TILL 1855 </p>	<p> „ „ 66 </p>
<p> THE REGIMENT IN BROAD STREET, OXFORD, 1874 </p>	<p> „ „ 88 </p>
<p> THE KEEP AND OFFICERS' MESS, COWLEY BARRACKS, 1899 </p>	<p> „ „ 94 </p>
<p> COMPANY BLOCKS, COWLEY BARRACKS . </p>	<p> „ „ 100 </p>
<p> COLOURS PRESENTED BY H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT, 1883 </p>	<p> „ „ 112 </p>
<p> GROUP OF OFFICERS, 1885 </p>	<p> „ „ 118 </p>
<p> THE BATTALION, 1895 </p>	<p> „ „ 144 </p>
<p> GROUP OF OFFICERS, 1896 </p>	<p> „ „ 148 </p>
<p> UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT, 1896 </p>	<p> „ „ 150 </p>
<p> „ „ „ „ </p>	<p> „ „ 152 </p>

INTRODUCTION

ORIGIN OF THE MILITIA FORCE.

THE name 'Militia,' apparently derived from the Latin word 'Miles,' has been applied for several centuries to those men who have been, between the limits of a certain age, and either in a compulsory or voluntary manner, enrolled for the purpose of preserving peace within their respective counties, and for the protection of the kingdom from invasion.

The force, in one form or another, has probably been in existence from about the time of the Norman Conquest, and Blackstone mentions that—

'it seems universally agreed by historians that King Alfred first settled a National Militia in this kingdom, and, by his prudent discipline, made all the subjects of his dominion soldiers.'

The Anglo-Saxon force, known as the Fyrd, was, according to Grose, greatly improved and reorganized by Alfred. This force may be taken as having been the original of the present Militia force of the kingdom, which, during a period of about a thousand years, has been subject to innumerable changes in the conditions of its service, organization, and equipment.

Sir F. Palgrave, in his *Rise and Progress of the English Commonwealth*, states that—

'from the earliest period to which our documents can reach, we find the Fyrd appearing as a general armament of the people, comprehending every rank, though under different obligations and penalties.'

In Saxon times all men capable of bearing arms were liable to be called upon to serve in cases of national emergency.

Grose, in his *Military Antiquities*, says :—

‘ All such as were qualified to bear arms in one family were led to the field by the head of that family ; every ten families made a Tything, which was commanded by the borsholder in his military capacity, styled conductor. Ten Tythings constituted a Hundred ; the soldiers of each Hundred were led by the chief magistrate of the Hundred, sometimes called the Hundredary. Several Hundreds formed a Trything, which was commanded by an officer called a Trything man ; and the force of the County or Shire was commanded by the Hertock, Dux, or Duke, and he by the King, or an officer called the Kyningshold, i. e. the King’s Lieutenant or General, which office lasted only during the war. In times of peace, or when the King did not think it necessary to have a General, the Militia remained under the command of the Dukes of each County.’

This force was usually mustered for exercise and inspection of arms in the spring of each year.

The foregoing is a very short description of the most ancient military organization known to have existed in the country, and it was really, in a crude form, not much unlike the organization of the Militia when reorganized in 1756 under the Lord Lieutenant and Deputy Lieutenants of counties.

The counties were then, for the purpose of raising the necessary quota of men, divided into divisions, subdivisions, hundreds, and parishes.

It appears unnecessary in this brief Introduction to attempt to follow the evolution of the Militia during many centuries of its existence, because those who are curious as to the matter may find further details in the several works which have been published on the subject.

A quotation, however, may not be out of place from the very complete *History of the Royal Lancashire Militia*, written by Lieut.-Col. J. G. Rawstone, in which he says :—

‘ Springing originally from the Fyrd of the Anglo-Saxons, and subsequently succeeding the Trained Bands of a later period, the Militia may reasonably be regarded as the basis of the military system of the kingdom. The regulation of their primary constitution as Militia will be frequently noticed in the extracts from the ancient authorities herein quoted or referred to. In the earliest records few particulars

have been presented to our notice in the present research of anterior date to the time of Charles II, but in his reign we find that strenuous measures were adopted to consolidate the force. At what precise periods during the succeeding reigns the Militia was drawn together for the service of the State does not appear to have been particularly recorded, nor have we found such details of an earlier date than the year 1759. At this epoch, however, circulars were addressed to the Lieutenants of Counties, calling upon them to exercise their power and authority in this most important branch of the public service.'

The ranks of Militia regiments are now, as is well known, filled, like those of the regular Army, by voluntary enlistment. It is not however generally understood by the public that, by a Statute which is temporarily suspended by a short Act passed every year, the deficiency in the allotted quota of any county, city, or riding can be supplied by the ballot of the male inhabitants within certain limits of age and physical qualifications.

The provisions of this Ballot Act for the Militia are as follows :—

'The Secretary of State is to declare the number of Militiamen required, whereupon the Lord Lieutenant is to cause meetings to be held of the Lieutenancy of each subdivision. To these meetings the householders of each Parish are to send in lists of all male persons between the ages of eighteen and thirty in their respective houses. Before the ballot, however, the Parish may supply volunteers to fill up the quota; every volunteer so provided and approved counting as though he were a balloted person. If a deficiency still exists, the persons on the lists shall be balloted for, and double the number of those required to supply the deficiency shall be drawn out. Any person whose name is so drawn may claim exemption or object; the Deputy Lieutenants shall settle the question of his liability to serve. From the corrected list, those who are of the necessary physique (the height is 5 ft. 2 in.) are enrolled in the order in which their names are numbered until the quota is completed. If the list is not sufficient to fill the quota, another ballot in the same manner is to be taken. Any balloted man becoming liable to serve, may, however, provide a substitute who has the requisite physical qualifications, and is not himself liable to serve¹.'

Since 1852 the ballot for the Militia has not been put in

¹ *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

force, and the annual suspending Act is entitled 'An Act to suspend the making of Lists and the Ballots and Enrolments for the Militia of the United Kingdom.'

In the year 1869 a short sketch of the history of the Oxfordshire Regiment of Militia was written and printed for private circulation by the late Mr. J. M. Davenport, Clerk of the Peace for the County of Oxford; and his son, Mr. T. M. Davenport, the present Clerk to the County Council and Clerk of the Peace, has kindly given his permission for some extracts to be made from it. It is, so far as I am aware, the only attempt which has been made to record the origin and services of the county regiment.

Mr. Davenport says :—

'The Militia of the County of Oxford dates back, in common with that of the other counties of England, from a time very little subsequent to the Norman Conquest.

'At that date the proprietors of land were compelled, by providing men and arms, in proportion to their estates, to contribute to the defence of the Realm in the event of a threatened invasion. The soldiers were raised under the authorities of Commissions of Array, which Commissions were issued by the Crown to two or more persons of honour, reputation, or estate in each county. The Militia was at first liable to be marched, at pleasure, to any part of the kingdom; but in the reign of Edward III it was enacted by a statute that no Militiaman should be sent out of his county, except in times of public danger. Dating from the reign of Edward VI, the Lord Lieutenant has had the charge, under the direction of his Sovereign, of raising the Militia of his county.

'King Charles I having, by the "Petition of Right," been deprived of the power of maintaining a disposable body of troops in the country, found himself, in 1641, unable to suppress the Rebellion then raging in Ireland, and was in consequence induced to commit the charge of restoring peace to the care of Parliament. The result was that the Parliament immediately took advantage of the circumstance to get into its own hands all the military force of the nation; and, in the following year, the two houses passed a bill by which it was decreed that the power over the Militia should be vested in certain Commissioners. The King having refused his consent to this bill, the Parliament declared that it was necessary to put the nation in a posture of defence, and immediately issued orders to muster the Militia. On the

other hand, the King issued Commissions of Array for the like purpose to some of the nobility, and thus commenced that memorable Civil War which desolated the country for years; and during which Oxford so often found within its walls an hospitable home for the King and his court.

‘Upon Charles II ascending the throne the Militia was re-established on its former footing, and the chief command was vested in the King¹.’

In June, 1685, at the time of the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion, the county Militia, under the command of the Earl of Abingdon as Lord Lieutenant, did active work in Oxford, and they were associated with a troop of horse and large numbers of Volunteers from the University.

As a further proof of the loyal spirit of Oxfordshire in this reign a curious letter may be quoted from the *Calendar of State Papers*, July 15, 1666. It runs thus:—

‘George Liboni to Charles Parrott.

‘The Deputy Lieutenants of Oxfordshire and Magistrates of Oxford have been hard at work dispatching recruits for the Army and Navy. They have sent away a company of lusty young bargemen, who passed along the streets singing and shouting. Also 150 able, pressed men. A squadron of horse has marched to the rendezvous at Maidenhead, and many volunteers have gone to the Fleet under Charles Bertie, son of the Earl of Lindsey. The Anabaptists declare that they would engage against Dutch and French, if permitted. The very women encourage their relations to war, and one sturdy girl put on man's apparel, and went on board the Fleet. If other counties had the like zeal, Holland might be drowned, and France burned in seven years².’

Mr. Davenport continues:—

‘The Lord Lieutenant of the County was made immediately subordinate to the Sovereign, and granted Commissions (subject to the King's approval) to the Field and Regimental Officers.

‘The Annual Trainings of the Militia from about this period ceased to be observed, until 1756, when, under an apprehension that the country was about to be invaded by a French Army, considerable bodies of Hanoverian and Hessian troops were brought over for its defence. The spirit of the nation, however, revolted at the disgrace of being indebted to foreign mercenaries for protection; and, these troops

¹ *Sketch of the History of the Oxfordshire Militia.*

² *Calendar of State Papers.*

being sent back to the Continent, a National Militia was again raised and organized under the sanction of an Act of Parliament in the 30th year of George II¹.

Since that time numerous Statutes have been passed affecting the Militia, its organization, and discipline, but it is now mainly regulated by the Militia Act of 1882, and when called out the Militia is almost entirely subject to the same provisions as affect the regular army. Since 1869 no officer of the Militia has been required to have a property qualification.

The Militia of every county was, until the passing of the Regulation of the Forces Act, 1871, placed under its Lord Lieutenant, subject to the command of the Sovereign; but now all jurisdiction over the Militia is exercised by the Sovereign through the Secretary of State for War, and the Lord Lieutenant now only makes the first appointments to the lowest rank of Militia officers.

‘Until recently the Sovereign could only employ the Militia in any part of the United Kingdom, but not out of it. In 1813, however, an Act was passed allowing the Militia, when volunteering, to be formed into provisional regiments to co-operate with the Regulars. And, in 1855, by special Act, Her Majesty was enabled “to accept the services of the Militia out of the United Kingdom for the vigorous prosecution of the War.” When called into active service the officers of the Militia rank with those of an equal grade in the Regular Army, but as the juniors of each grade. . . . An eminent writer has well described the Militia as an Institution of the highest utility to the Kingdom; the men being engaged in military occupations so long only as may be necessary to qualify them for soldiers when called upon to take the field, they being at all other times subservient to the practice of Agriculture, or the useful arts. They thus combine the characters of defenders of their country, and contributors to its prosperity, while they remain connected in social union with their fellow citizens, and interested, with them, in the support of the laws and in the preservation of the government of the Kingdom.’

This description of the Militia was written before the days of the Volunteer force, which has increased in numbers and efficiency in such a remarkable manner, and it may obviously be equally applied to that body.

¹ *Sketch of the History of the Oxfordshire Militia.*

‘Passing then from a review of the theory of the Militia at large, to that which immediately interests the County of Oxford,—the exploits of its own Regiment,—it is matter of congratulation that the Oxfordshire Militia has (with one eventful exception in its history, of which an account will be found further on) uniformly held a gallant position among the Militia Regiments of the Kingdom, and that, beyond their duties in their own country, the Oxfordshire Militia has, at intervals, aided the Regular Army in garrison towns in England, and on active service in Ireland and abroad ¹.’

¹ *Sketch of the History of the Oxfordshire Militia.*

FORMATION AND EARLY HISTORY OF THE REGIMENT, 1778-1852.

1778.

IT appears certain that the Oxfordshire Militia as a complete regiment, with duly commissioned officers, and to a considerable extent in its present form, has only existed since the year 1778.

On March 26, 1778, the following royal warrant was issued :—

‘GEORGE REX.

We having (agreeably to the Acts for the better ordering of the Militia Forces in that part of Great Britain called England) communicated to Parliament our having received Advice that the Warlike Preparations in France become every day more considerable, and that at this critical Conjuncture We should not think we acted consistently with the Care and Concern We feel for Our faithful People, if We omitted any means in Our power that might contribute to their Defence, Our Will and Pleasure is, and We do hereby order you with all convenient speed to draw out and embody, at such Place as you shall judge most convenient, the Militia of the County of — under your Direction, and that you do cause the same to be held, in every respect, ready to march, as occasion may require, to such Ports within this Kingdom as We shall judge proper to assign them, and to be put under the command of such General Officer or Officers, as We shall be pleased to appoint over them, and to obey such further Orders as shall be judged necessary for the Safety and Defence of this Kingdom. And for so doing this shall be Your Warrant.

Given at our Court of St. James's the twenty-sixth Day of March,
1778, in the eighteenth Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's command,

WEYMOUTH¹.

A covering letter in the following terms was sent with this warrant to each Lord Lieutenant. That to the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire being here given:—

ST. JAMES'S, 26th March, 1778.

TO THE EARL OF UPPER OSSORY.

My Lord,

I have the honour to send your Lordship herewith enclosed His Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, ordering your Lordship to draw out and embody the Militia of the County of Bedford, and I must desire the favour of you to acknowledge the receipt thereof.

I am, Sir, &c.,

WEYMOUTH.

This letter (*mutatis mutandis*), together with the royal warrant, was sent to the Lord Lieutenants of fifty counties in England and Wales, that referring to the county of Oxford being sent to the Duke of Marlborough.

A warrant for the supply of ammunition to the embodied Militia was issued on April 25, 1778, the original here given being also that for the county of Bedford.

Warrant for Ammunition for the Militia for the County of Bedford.

GEORGE R.

Whereas it has been humbly represented unto Us that Ammunition is wanted for the Militia for Our County of Bedford, consisting of 400 men² ordered to be drawn out and embodied for actual service; Our Will and Pleasure therefore is, that out of the Stores remaining within the Office of Our Ordnance under your Charge, you cause a proper quantity of Powder, Ball, and Flints to be forthwith issued and delivered to such Person or Persons as shall be duly authorized to receive the same for the use of our said Militia; and you are to

¹ Whitehall Letter Books, Secretary of State, Record Office.

² In the warrants for such counties whose Militia consisted of more than one battalion or regiment were added the words 'divided into Batts. or Regts.'

take the usual Indents for the same, and to insert the Expense thereof in your next Estimate to be laid before Parliament. And for so doing this shall be as well unto you as unto all other Our Officers and Ministers herein concerned a sufficient Warrant.

Given at Our Court at St. James's the 25th day of April, 1778, in the eighteenth year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's command,

WEYMOUTH.

To Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Cousin and Councillor George Viscount Townshend, Master General of Our Ordnance.

Warrants in the same form and of the same date as that entered on the preceding page were directed to the Master General of the Ordnance for the following counties, viz.¹

Then follows a list of counties with the quota of men for each, that for Oxfordshire being 560.

The first appointments of officers were made in the following letter :—

ST. JAMES'S, 25th May, 1778.

TO HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.

My Lord,

Having laid before the King your Grace's letter of the 22nd instant with a list inclosed recommending the following gentlemen to be officers in the Oxfordshire Militia, viz. :

Lord Charles Spencer, to be Colonel.

John Caillaud, Esq^{re}, Lieut.-Colonel.

Lord Viscount Parker, Major.

John Weyland, Esq^{re}.

Oldfield Bowles, Esq^{re}.

Lock Rollinson, Esq^{re}.

John Lenthal, Jun^r., Esq^{re}.

John Bush, Esq^{re}.

Edward Gore, Esq^{re}., Capt.-Lieutenant.

George Williams, Gent.

John Turner, Gent.

Edward Taylor, Gent.

Charles D'Oyley, Gent.

Robert Howland, Gent.

} Captains.

} Lieutenants.

¹ Whitehall Letter Books, Secretary of State, Record Office.

Matthew Philips, Gent. }
James Vassar, Gent. } Ensigns.

I have the satisfaction to acquaint your Grace that His Majesty does not disapprove of those Gentlemen.

I am, etc.,

WEYMOUTH.

On July 31, 1778, one Joseph Stringer was appointed Adjutant by a warrant in the following terms:—

To JOSEPH STRINGER, Gent., Adjutant to the Oxfordshire Militia.

George R.

George the Third, by the Grace of God King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c.: to Our Trusty and Well-beloved Joseph Stringer, Gent., Greeting. We do by these Presents constitute and appoint you to be Adjutant to the Regiment of Oxfordshire Militia.

You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of Adjutant by doing and performing all and all manner of things thereunto belonging. And you are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions from time to time, as you shall receive from Our Lieutenant of Our said County of Oxford, your Colonel, or any other your superior officer, according unto the Acts of Parliament in this case made and provided.

Given at our Court of St. James's the 31st day of July, 1778, in the eighteenth Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's command,

WEYMOUTH¹.

The following extracts from the Minute Book of the General Meetings of the Lieutenancy of the county of Oxford may be found of interest, to show how the method of raising the Militia was carried out at this time:—

'At a General Meeting of the Deputy Lieutenants, held in pursuance of the several laws now in force respecting the Militia of this Kingdom, the 28th day of April, 1778, at the House of Mary Stuart, called the Star Inn² in the City of Oxford, no General Meeting of the Lord Lieutenant and Deputy Lieutenant having been before held on the second Tuesday in March last, and due notice of this present meeting

¹ Whitehall Letter Books, Secretary of State, Record Office.

² Now the Clarendon Hotel.

having been given by the said Lord Lieutenant in the *London Gazette* and in the *Oxford Journal* (being a weekly paper usually circulated in the said County) more than fourteen days antecedant to such meeting.

Present—The Right Hon^{ble} the Earl of Macclesfield, the Right Hon^{ble} Lord Cadogan, the Right Hon^{ble} Lord Charles Spencer, Sir Charles Cotterell Dormer, the Hon^{ble} John Moreton and John Walter, Sambrooke Freeman, Edward Gore, Francis Page, Thomas Blackall, William Draper, George Schutz, William Lenthall, John Tilson, Fairmeadow Pennystone, and Paul Elers, Esquires. It was ordered and appointed that there shall be eight subdivision meetings of the Deputy Lieutenants within this County.’

Then follow the names of the several Hundreds, Parishes, and Tythings of which the subdivisions were composed, the dates on which and the places where the meetings should be held. The minute then proceeds to state :—

‘Issued orders to the Constables and other officers of the several Hundreds within this County, and of the City of Oxford, and of the towns of Banbury and Hardwicke in the said County, to require by orders under their hands the Constables, Tythingmen, Headboroughs or other officers of each Parish, Tything, or Place, within their respective Hundreds, Divisions, Parishes, and Jurisdictions, to return to the Deputy Lieutenants within their respective Subdivisions at the places and on the days hereunder appointed for the first Subdivision meetings fair and true Lists in Writing of the men usually and at that time dwelling within their respective Parishes, Tythings and Places, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years, distinguishing their respective ranks and occupations, with such further directions to the said Chief Constables and other officers as by the said Act of Parliament in that behalf are made and provided.’

The minutes of this meeting are signed by Lords Macclesfield and Spencer, William Lenthall and John Tilson.

In a minute of a meeting held on May 6 in the same year, the number of men to be raised by ballot in each division is set out, as follows :—

<i>Hundreds and City of Oxford.</i>	<i>Number of men in each.</i>	<i>Number of men in each Division.</i>	<i>Number to be raised in each Division.</i>
Bampton . . .	1347	1347	56 3 over.
Bloxham and N. Division of Banbury Hundred, with Epwell . . .	766 667 34	1467	61 3 "
Chadlington and S. Di- vision of Banbury Hundred . . .	1715	1715	71 11 "
Ewelme . . .	691	1435	60
Lewknor . . .	421		
and Pirton . . .	323		
Langtree . . .	281	930	39
Binfield . . .	418		
and Henley . . .	231		
Dorchester . . .	342	3047	127
Thame . . .	460		
Bullingdon . . .	1012		
City and Suburb of Ox- ford . . .	1233	1257	52 9 over.
Ploughley . . .	1257		
Wootton . . .	1743		
	12941	12941	538 41

It would appear by a note appended to the minutes of the Lieutenancy meeting held in May, 1781, that the number of men should have been 560. After setting out the number of men to be raised in each division in a similar manner, there appears this note:—

‘N.B.—In settling this proportion it was calculated to raise the whole number directed by the Act of Parliament, namely 560, whereas in settling the proportion in 1778, 22 men were allowed to be non-effective, and only 538 were raised.’

A third and well-attended meeting of the Lieutenancy, presided over by His Grace the Duke of Marlborough, was held in July, 1778, at which

‘The Deputy Lieutenants proceeded to form and order the Militia of this County into Companys of persons, living as near to each other as conveniently could be, and to post to each company proper officers as after mentioned, Resolved, that the Militia shall form eight

companys, viz. one Grenadier and seven Battalion companys, and the number of Officers and Privates to each shall be as follows :—

	Colonel.	Lieut.-Col.	Major.	Captains.	Capt.-Lieut.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Serjeants.	Drummers.	Rank and File.
Lord Charles Spencer, Col. and Capt.	I				I		I	4	2	69
John Caillaud, Lieut.-Col. and Capt.		I				I	I	4	2	69
Lord Viscount Parker, Major and Capt.			I			I	I	4	2	69
Capt. Oldfield Bowles . . .				I		I	I	3	2	69
„ John Weyland (Grenadiers) . . .				I		2		4	2	80
„ Lock Rollinson				I		I	I	3	2	68
„ John Lenthal				I		I	I	3	2	68
„ John Bush				I		I	I	3	2	68
Total	I	I	I	5	I	8	7	28	16	560

It was also 'ordered' that the several officers to be posted to the several companies be as follows, viz. :—

- No. 1. Colonel Lord Charles Spencer.
Captain-Lieutenant William Gore.
Ensign.
- „ 2. Lieut.-Colonel John Caillaud.
Lieut. Thomas Mason.
Ensign Alexander Denton.
- „ 3. Major Lord Viscount Parker.
Lieutenant Joseph Owen.
Ensign Alexander Wallace.
- „ 4. Captain Oldfield Bowles.
Lieutenant Edward Taylor.
Ensign Richard Bamfield.
- Grenadiers. Captain John Weyland.
1st Lieutenant Charles D'Oyly.
2nd Lieutenant Robert Howland.
- „ 5. Captain Lock Rollinson.
Lieutenant George Williams (Quartermaster).
Ensign James Vassar.
- „ 6. Captain John Lenthal, jun.
Lieutenant John Turner.
Ensign W. Perchard (Surgeon).

No. 7. Captain John Bush.

Lieutenant Joseph Stringer (Adjutant).

Ensign M. Phillips.

Then follows a schedule of the different parishes in the hundreds, with the number of men to be raised in each, the total number of parishes being 238.

It is evident, therefore, that with only 560 men to raise the call upon the manhood of the county under the ballot at this date was not great. In many single parishes only one man had to be found, and in other cases, where three or four parishes were grouped together, they were required to find from two to eight men between them.

The proceedings here shortly described of the Lord Lieutenant and Deputy Lieutenants of the county, to raise and organize the Militia force, may be taken as a fair sample of the method employed year by year under the existing Acts of Parliament at this period, although the number of men scheduled as available, and the number also required to be raised, varied from time to time.

Colonel Crowder, in the beginning of the book in which his diary was written, has alluded to some interesting entries in an old 'account book' then in the possession of the late Rev. C. V. Spencer of Wheatfield, and his son, Mr. A. J. Spencer, has kindly given permission for the following extracts to be made from it:—

'Proper charges for a Contingent Account. When a Regiment is in Britain the Paymaster of it makes up the Contingent Account twice a year, viz. on the 24th June and 24th December, the following charges being inserted therein:

Half year's allowance for the Regimental Hospital .	£15	0	0
Half year's allowance to the Major for carriage of			
Ammunition	5	0	0
Half year's allowance, 182 or 183 days, to the Major			
for fire and candle for the Guard Room at 6d.			
per diem	4	11	0

'Postage of regimental letters to be charged half-yearly, the actual sums expended on account of the Regiment to be certified upon honour by the Commanding Officer.

'Expenses of regimental stationery, the actual sum expended.

‘Marching of the Regiment, one shilling per mile for each company. The place from whence they marched to be specified, and also the number of miles. The date of the War Office route to be inserted in the margin.

‘The whole account is to be signed by the Paymaster when it is sent to the Agent, and a duplicate of it must be transmitted to the War Office, and the following certificate made by the Commanding Officer, viz.:

‘I certify upon honour, as directed by a letter from the Secretary at War, that the actual sums which are charged in this bill for the several contingent expenses therein mentioned are the actual sums which have been advanced and no more, according to my knowledge and belief after the most careful examination.

‘This account is made up by the Agent and laid before the War Office, in which is included the following charges and paid by him, viz. the Paymaster having first transmitted the Regimental Contingent Bill to the Agent. Other charges are there inserted thereon which have been paid by the Agent on this account :

‘Fees of warrant for holding Court Martial.

‘Agency on the certified bill at 6*d.* in the £.

‘Fees of warrant on the contingent bill, one guinea in the hundred at the War Office, and 3*s.* 6*d.* for entering the warrant at the Pay Office.

‘The expenses of packing camp necessities, Ingravings, Inspecting and packing of Arms, Painting of drums, together with packing of ammunition, are to be inserted in the Contingent Bill whenever they are paid, as they are not annual charges, and also the freight of carriage of arms and drums to the Regiment wherever they are sent, either abroad or at home.

‘The Bounty money to recruits who desert previous to their being approved of is likewise to be charged in the contingent bill.

‘An allowance for inoculating recruits at £1 1*s.* is admitted in this account.

‘At a meeting of the Colonel, Field Officers, and Commanding Officers of Companys of the Oxfordshire Regiment of Militia held at the Crown Inn at Reading on the 29th day of October, 1778, the following resolutions were proposed and agreed to:—

‘That the number of Drummers as allowed by Government should be sixteen, Drum-major included.

‘That the seven Battalion companys should each allow one man on their rolls for a Fifer, but that they should be paid as Drummers, and the difference to be made up out of the Stock Purse.’

Then follow orders agreed to concerning certain stoppages from the pay of drummers and fifers, together with an allowance from the Stock Purse to be given to the drum-major and fife-major for their trouble in teaching them.

It was also, at the same meeting,

‘resolved and agreed to form a Band of Music, to consist of eight hands, under the management and care of Captain Bowles, four of the Band to be sworn as Serjeants and to stand as such on the roll of the Colonels, Lieut.-Colonels, Majors and Grenadier Companys, but to receive equal pay with the others.’

It was also arranged that a music master should be engaged to teach this modest band, and various payments for this and other purposes sanctioned from the Stock Purse. The meeting seems indeed to have gone very fully into the interior economy of the regiment, and to have been of a thoroughly practical and business-like character.

One more instance of these details may be given, resolutions having been agreed to

‘for the inoculation of the Regiment, a house having been hired for that purpose, but the unexpected removal which will soon take place will of course delay for some time the execution of the plan, the heads of which are as follows:—

‘That a return should be given in to the Colonel of the men who have not had the small-pox in each company. Then to make inquiry how many would chuze to undergo the operation, the turn of the men to be decided by lot, but it was agreed that such of the non-commissioned officers as might chuze it should be the first in the list. The Colonel was desired to make inquiry if Government would allow any charge to be made on the contingent bill for this salutary purpose.’

It would appear from the foregoing that inoculation with the small-pox was considered a ‘salutary purpose,’ and that, even at this time, in the Militia force at any rate, ‘conscientious objectors’ were recognized, from the inquiry which was to be made as to ‘how many would *chuze* to undergo the operation.’ The minutes of the meeting were signed by Lord Charles Spencer, the field officers, and all the captains.

It may seem strange that the Oxfordshire Regiment should have been at this time quartered in Reading, instead of that

town being occupied by the excellent regiment belonging to the county of Berks; but the Berkshire Militia had, for some reason, been directed by the authorities to march to and occupy the towns of Henley, Oakingham, and Great Marlow. The 'unexpected removal' which it was stated above 'would soon take place' was the quartering of the regiment at Newbury, early in the following year, the Berkshire Militia having already marched to the camp at Coxheath in Kent.

The very considerable extent to which the regular forces of the country were at this time reinforced by the Militia may be exemplified by an extract from Miss Thoyts' excellent *History of the Royal Berkshire Militia*:—

'The Berkshire Militia were among those at Coxheath Camp, the chief rendezvous of the troops, and the following year were sent to Warley:—At Salisbury were the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 6th Dragoon Guards—St. Edmundbury: 3rd, 4th, 7th and 10th Dragoons—Coxheath, Kent: 1st Battalion of the Royals, 2nd, 14th, 18th, 59th and 65th Regiments of Foot, 1st Regiment of Dragoons, and 12 Regiments of Militia—Warley Common, Essex: 6th, 25th and 69th Regiments of Foot, and 6 Regiments of Militia, viz. the Somerset, Wilts, Kent, Carmarthen, Glamorgan, and Pembroke—Winchester: 30th Regiment of Foot, and 6 Regiments of Militia—Plymouth: 3 Regiments of Militia—Portsmouth: 2 Regiments of Militia—Dover: 1 Regiment of Militia.'

1779-1780.

In 1779 the regiment was quartered at Newbury, and it will be seen by the following list of officers taken from the June *Army List* of 1779 (the officers of the embodied Militia now appearing with those of the regular army) that several changes had already taken place:—

Colonel Lord Charles Spencer.

Lieut.-Colonel Lord Parker.

Major Oldfield Bowles, Dec. 10, 1778.

Captain Oldfield Bowles, May 28, 1778.

„ John Weyland.

„ Lock Rollinson.

„ John Lenthall.

„ John Bush.

Capt.-Lieut. William Gore.
Lieut. Edward Taylor.
„ Charles D'Oyley.
„ Robert Howland.
„ Thomas Mason.
„ John Turner.
„ George Williams.
„ Joseph Orven.
„ Joseph Stringer.
Ensign Alexander Denton.
„ Alexander Wallis.
„ James Vassar.
„ John Boullier Perchard.
„ Matthew Phillips.
„ Richard Bamfylde.
„ Randolph Greenway.
Adjutant J. Stringer.
Quartermaster George Williams.
Surgeon John Boullier Perchard.

As will be seen by the names of officers recorded at a meeting held in May of this year, there is some discrepancy between that and the *Army List*, in the former John Weyland being given as the Major.

In the old 'Accompt Book' there is an entry of the minutes of a meeting of the field officers and captains held at Newbury on May 5, 1779.

At this meeting it was—

'resolved that the Commanding Officers of Companys do immediately make out their respective accounts of non-effective Serjeants and Drummers up to the 24th of April next.

'That they also make out an account of their demands for the contingent expenses of each Company, such as carriage of baggage, &c. In this account to be included all bills for repair of arms to this time.

'Resolved—that in future all bills for repair of arms to be examined and signed by the Commanding Officer of each Company, and sent into the Adjutant at the end of every month. The foregoing accounts and any other demands the Commanding Officers of Companies may have on the Stock Purse to be produced and settled at the next meeting.

‘Resolved and agreed to allow the Adjutant for his care of the Stock Purse twenty pounds per annum out of the Stock Purse, to commence from the 25th of March last. And the Colonel agrees to give the like sum annually out of the clothing. The above allowance to be made him until he shall be appointed to some post in the Regiment in addition to that of Adjutant.

‘William Harris of Captain Rollinson’s Company being appointed Clerk to the Regiment—agreed, to allow him the sum of three guineas per annum out of the Stock Purse, commencing from the 8th May, 1779.

‘Present at the meeting—

Lord Charles Spencer, Colonel.

Lord Viscount Parker, Lt.-Colonel.

John Weyland, Major.

Lock Rollinson, Captain.

John Lenthall, „

William Gore, „

Charles D’Oyley, „

From Newbury the regiment marched to Dover Castle and did garrison duty there till 1780, when it was for some time at Tiptree Camp.

This was not however the only occasion on which the Oxfordshire Militia was quartered at Dover, for in 1803–4 the Battalion again occupied Dover Castle, and in 1859–60 it was, for the third time, quartered in Dover on the Western Heights.

An account of a meeting of the officers, held at Dover Castle on September 28, 1779, appears in the old book before alluded to:—

‘It was agreed that the Master of the Band, J. Vras, should be paid by them, at the rate of two pounds two shillings per week, and advanced at this time for his subsistence as follows, being for one quarter of a year from the 16th August to 15th November inclusive.’

Then follows a list of the contributions of the officers, according to rank, but the subaltern officers do not appear at this period to have ever been called upon to subscribe to funds of this kind. At a meeting of the officers held at Tiptree Camp on October 17, 1780, it was resolved—

‘that, to defray the expense of the Band of Music, the following sub-

scriptions be entered into, to commence from 15th day of August, 1780, and the money to be paid into the Stock Purse every quarter.

The Colonel contributing annually .	£15	15
The Lieut.-Colonel	8	8
The Major	7	7
The 5 Captains, 5 guineas each . .	26	5
	<u>£57</u>	<u>15</u>

1781-2.

Continuing the permanent duty on which they were now engaged, the regiment in 1781 and 1782 performed services severally at Sherborne (in Dorsetshire), Roborough Camp, Tavistock, Oakhampton, Crediton, and Exeter. The regiment also, for a considerable time, performed garrison duty at Pendennis Castle, Falmouth.

A meeting of the Deputy Lieutenants of the County was held at Oxford on April 30, 1781, and amongst other business relating to the Militia recorded in the minutes, the following appears:—

‘Whereas many difficulties have arisen in the County in the recovery of the sums allowed for the relief of wives and families of Militiamen serving in the Oxfordshire Regiment, and many Parishes have refused to submit to the order of the Justices of the Peace made upon that account, it is ordered that the general Clerk do take such measures for the recovery of the said sums as the Militia Acts direct, and in case he finds any difficulty therein, to take the opinion of Council and pursue his directions.’

The same difficulty appears to have occurred also at this time in a neighbouring county, for it is stated in the *History of the Royal Berkshire Militia* that—

‘Clubs were formed, out of which substitutes could be drawn. This became a complete system of insurance against compulsory military service. With regard to substitutes the system was thoroughly overdone, the sums paid sometimes, especially for foreign service, were absurd. In one case (the Annual Register says) £60 was given to a substitute, and for foreign service the prices asked were much higher. Parochial authorities preferred paying sums of money for substitutes to supporting the wives and families of soldiers absent during their term of service. Government allowed a certain amount

towards the support of soldiers' wives and families, to endeavour to render the service less distasteful. In all cases where it was possible, voluntary enlistment was encouraged by liberal bounty money and other means.'

This method of obtaining men voluntarily by means of giving large bounties must have proved prolific of an enormous system of fraudulent enlistment, most difficult to check in those days when locomotion and communication by post were both slow, costly, and difficult. The Government undoubtedly suffered great loss in this direction.

An instance of this is given in the same history :—

'Thomas Hodgson of Wantage, aged 26, was convicted of robbery and executed at Ipswich. He confessed to having enlisted in Regiments in England, Scotland, and Ireland, under forty-nine different names; having often enlisted in different recruiting parties of the same Regiment, he seldom stayed more than a day before deserting, yet he was only convicted three times of desertion and whipped once for it. He got 397 guineas in bounty money and 57 guineas by robberies.'

List of officers in July, 1781 :—

Colonel Lord Charles Spencer.

Lieut.-Colonel John Weyland.

Major Thomas Velley.

Captain William Gore.

„ Randolph Greenway.

„ Thomas Newberry.

„ Thomas Prince.

„ Joseph Newton.

Captain-Lieutenant Joseph Orven.

Lieutenant Cudworth.

„ Edward Musgrave.

„ Richard W. Bamfield.

„ John Gore.

„ Joseph Stringer.

„ Charles Haynes.

„ Charles Rowe.

„ James John Vasser.

Ensign Herbert Beavor.

The strength of each company varied between sixty-eight and seventy rank and file, with the exception of the Grenadier Company, which had seventy-seven men. The total establishment consisting of five hundred and sixty rank and file, twenty-eight sergeants, and sixteen drummers.

There is a quaint memorial tablet in Canterbury Cathedral erected to the memory of one of the officers in the above list:—

‘Near this place lie the remains of
Randolph Greenway, Esq^{re},

Senior Captain in the Oxfordshire Militia, who died at Calais
on the 19th October, 1785, in the 37th year of his age.

His Humanity, Unbounded Generosity, and noble Disinterestedness may perhaps be equalled, but can never be excelled.

To these qualities were added every other virtue which could adorn a man.

His afflicted friends must console themselves with the reflection that, by imitating his virtues, they will hereafter receive the reward he now enjoys, and be united again with him in a better place.’

After making every allowance for exaggeration on the part of the deceased gentleman’s friends, who evidently appreciated his good qualities most fully and deeply mourned his loss, he must have been a man of whom the county regiment might be proud, and it is doubtful if it has ever since that time possessed an officer who attained so high a standard.

At a meeting of the Deputy Lieutenants of the County, held as usual—

‘at the House of Mary Stuart, called the Star Inn in the City of Oxford, Lord Charles Spencer, the Commanding Officer, certified to the meeting several vacancies by death and otherwise, and also that several persons had served out their times within 4 months from the 12th of this inst., December.’

Then follows, in the minutes, a list of the vacancies in each of the eight divisions of the county, two of which will suffice as specimens:—

‘For the Division of Bullington, Dorchester and Thame, and the Parishes in the City and suburbs of Oxford:

‘James Keelan, of St. Giles and Holywell, absconded.

‘George Barnett, of Beckley and Cuddesdon, never joined the Reg^t.

‘Noble Hayward, of North East Ward, dead.

‘William Lye, of Priest End, Old Thame, dead.

‘Thomas James, of Waterperry, dead.

‘Thomas Ealing, of Marston, discharged unfit for service.

‘William Goff, of Littlemore, discharged unfit for service.

‘For the Division of Bloxham, North Division of Banbury Hundred, and the Town of Banbury :

‘Thomas Dale, of Bloxham, never joined the Regt.

‘John Mills, of Banbury, discharged unfit for service.

‘Thomas Hiron, of Banbury, discharged unfit for service.

‘John Jeffery, of Banbury, time expires 4th January, 1782.

‘Thomas French, a Quaker of Sibford Gower, neither serves nor has found a substitute.’

Upon this statement the following order was made :—

‘The Deputy Lieutenants now present perused the several certificates and ordered the general Clerk to transmit immediately to the several subdivision Clerks such of the said certificates as concern their respective subdivisions, and desire them to proceed with all possible dispatch in the necessary measures for filling up the several vacancies, as the Acts of Parliament direct, if the Deputy Lieutenants present at the said subdivision meetings shall approve of the discharges mentioned in the certificates.’

At a meeting of the field officers and captains of the Oxfordshire Militia, held at Roborough Camp on October 17, 1782, it was agreed—

‘the men be provided with white linen waistcoats and breeches, the money for which to be stopped out of the men’s subsistence when going on Furlough, and paid into the hands of Lieutenant Stringer by the Pay-Serjeants of the respective companies. That the musick bill in question be paid on the 26th day of October inst. according to the proportion agreed on. That all recruits joining the Regiment in future do find their own knapsacks, which are to be deemed part of their necessaries. That a roster be made out and kept by the Adjutant for furnishing men for the flank companys.’

1783.

The Militia were disembodied in March, 1783, after having served for five years, and were not called out again for continuous service until 1792, when in December the whole

of the Militia force was embodied, until Peace with France having been concluded (called the Treaty of Amiens), it was once more disembodied in April, 1802.

Between 1783 and 1792 the Oxfordshire Regiment was annually called out for training.

1784.

At a meeting of the Deputy Lieutenants held on March 4, 1784, it was—

‘ordered and appointed that the Militia of this County be trained and exercised as the Acts of Parliament in that behalf direct, for twenty-eight days together, to commence upon the second day of October next ensuing at the City of Oxford, and that notice thereof be sent by the Clerk of the general meetings to the Chief Constables with directions to forward the same to the Constables or other officers of the several Parishes or places within this County as the said Acts prescribe.’

1785-1792.

There appears to have been no training in the year 1785; no record, at any rate, can be found in the Lieutenancy Minute Book of an order for the assembly of the regiment in that year.

During the years 1786 to 1792 the regiment was called out for training in the month of May.

In 1788 the number of names returned as liable for service in the eight subdivisions of the county had, for some reason, fallen to 8,971, but the number of men to be raised was still 560.

In 1792 the return showed a slight increase, the number being 9,191.

In December, 1792, another general embodiment of the Militia was ordered, and in October of the next year the Oxfordshire Regiment appears to have been quartered again at Reading, the Berkshire Militia being, at that time, in the neighbourhood of Brighton.

1793-5.

In February, 1793, after Paris had been convulsed by a bloody revolution, war was declared by France against

England, in spite of all the efforts that the English Government, headed by the peace-loving Pitt, had made to avoid it. The terrible struggle which was to last for upwards of twenty-two years had commenced.

A large force had been sent, under the Duke of York, to join the Austrians in Flanders, and many more men might at any moment be required to leave the country, whilst the fear of invasion was ever present in the minds of the Government. It was necessary, therefore, that the whole Militia force should be available to take the place of the regular army serving on the continent.

Mr. Davenport states that :—

‘In 1793 the Oxfordshire Militia was employed in escorting 1,000 French prisoners from Southampton to Salisbury, a circumstance which plunges us at once into the great war which did not end until 1815. With war came war prices and imminence of starvation.

‘Turning then to what has been intimated,—the eventful exception to the honourable career of the Regiment in times gone by—it must be recorded that, in the summer of 1794 the Regiment marched from Oxford to the camp on the downs at Brighton, which spread thence for miles round the sea coast, and consisted in 1794 of about 10,000 men, increased, in 1795, to 15,000. In the latter year the Oxfordshire Militia was stationed at East Blatchington, near Newhaven, and here a Mutiny occurred, owing to the discontentment at the high prices of Meat, Flour, and Bread, and the inadequate pay of the soldiers.’

It may here be mentioned that the men at this time wore pigtails, and were required to dress these hirsute appendages with flour which they had to purchase. This was a very unpopular regulation, and the expense was often evaded by substituting a mixture of soap and other ingredients. A pigtail so dressed, during a march on a hot day, must have been not unlike a guttering tallow candle.

‘Yielding to an excitement common at the time, and engaging in a rude and violent struggle for reduction of prices, the greater portion of the privates of the Regiment combined in a tumultuous and riotous manner and broke open bakers’ shops, ransacked flour mills, and cleared the butchers’ stalls, distributing the spoil to the mob. Beyond this they

boarded a vessel laden with corn, and wasted the contents. They also carried off flour to the value of £5,000 to sell "at a fair price" in Lewes market next day. For the night they encamped at Newhaven, where they were surrounded and made prisoners by the Lancashire Fencibles, who were in the neighbourhood; but their comrades in barracks sallying out to effect their rescue, boldly attacked a troop of Horse Artillery which disputed their progress, and were not dispersed without bloodshed. So desperate and lawless was the conduct of the Oxfordshire soldiers that, in pursuance of the finding of a Court Martial, two of the ringleaders (Edward Cooke of Witney and Henry Parish of Chipping Norton) were shot, in the presence of the rest of their own Regiment, and of 12 other Regiments assembled for the purpose. Others of the rioters were flogged and one was transported to Botany Bay.

'In addition to this, two privates (John Sykes and William Sansom) were tried at Lewes, under a special Commission of Assize, before Mr. Justice Buller and Mr. Justice Lawrence, for stealing a great quantity of flour and other articles from the premises of Messrs. Barton and Catt, near Newhaven, and sentenced to death; and, on the 14th June, they were executed at Horsham. This riot led to the Regiment being called by the vulgar "Big-loaf Oxford." As few events produce unmitigated evil, so the sad conduct of the Oxfordshire Militia on the occasion in question led to inquiries on the part of the military authorities of the country, which resulted in the standard pay of every branch of the service being augmented.

'The two men who were shot received their sentence at a part of a down near Brighton, called Goldstone Bottom, and the spot was long cherished by its boundaries being cut in the turf by the Shepherds, "whose innocent flocks" (so says Erredge in his *History of Brighton*) browsed "where so tragic an affair occurred. The plough has since obliterated all traces of the tragedy from the spot."

'The bodies of the two mutineers were interred in Hove Churchyard, contiguous to the centre of the old north boundary wall, where their remains continued undisturbed until the restoration of the Church in 1834, when a sawpit was dug at the actual spot, and a few of their bones were exhumed. The burying party was under Sergeant-Major Masters, who afterwards was publican at Witney. The receipt for the burial fees is still retained by his family¹.

The following detailed account of this sad affair is copied

¹ *Sketch of the History of the Oxfordshire Militia.*

from a letter from Blatchington Barracks, published in the *Oxford Journal* on June 13, 1795:—

‘At a General Court Martial of Field Officers, among whom were the Duke of Manchester, Lord Grey, Lord Dundas, the Hon. Mr. Walpole, &c., assembled the 4th May and continued until the 14th, thirteen prisoners of the Oxfordshire Militia were tried, of whom Cooke, Parish, and Haddocks were condemned to be shot; Harper was adjudged to receive fifteen hundred lashes; Blake, Heritage, Woodmarshal and Weaver, a thousand each; Warren five hundred; Cox, Johnson, Day, and Drake were acquitted. Haddocks is since pardoned on condition of serving as a soldier in New South Wales for 10 years. It was the most respectable Court and awful scene I ever saw. The whole was conducted with the greatest regularity and decorum, and the unhappy men seemed truly sensible of the enormity of their crime, and the justness of their sentence. The day of execution is fixed for Friday the 12th instant, early in the morning.

‘The following order was issued by command of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, Field Marshal:—“Every Regiment at Brighton Camp to be under arms on the day of the execution of the sentence of the General Court Martial, the Oxfordshire to march there without arms.”

‘Colonel Lord Charles Spencer, by his earnest entreaty, has prevailed to have that part of the order respecting the Oxfordshire appearing there without arms remitted, having promised and engaged that the behaviour of the Regiment shall not only be decent and orderly on that awful day, but that in future all the soldiers belonging to it behave themselves like good and orderly men, and never again disgrace the arms which he has now obtained permission to put again into their hands. He assured his Royal Highness of the sincerity of their sorrow for their past offences, and of their steadfast determination to be good subjects to the King, obedient to the laws of their Country, and attentive to Military duty.’

Shortly before the execution Cooke wrote the following letter to his brother:—

‘DEAR BROTHER,

This comes with my kind Love to you, and I hope you are well. I am brought very low and weak by long confinement and been in great trouble. Dear Brother, I am sentenced to Death and must

Die on Saturday the 13th of June; and I hope God Almighty will forgive me my sins.

‘I never was nobodys foe but my own, and that was in Drinking and breaking the Sabbath, and that is a great sin.

‘I have prayed night and Day to the Almighty God to forgive me and take me to heaven, and I hope my prayers be not in vain. I am going to die for what the Redgment done. I am not afraid to meet Death, for I have done no harm to no person, and that is a great comfort to me: there is a just God in heaven who knows I am going to suffer innocently. Dear Brother—I should be very glad to see you before I Depart this Life. I hope God Almighty will be a Guardian over you and all my relations, and I hope we shall meet in heaven, where we shall be ever happy without End.

‘So no more from the hand of your loving and Dying Brother,

EDWARD COOKE.’

The original of this letter, which is here given *verbatim et literatim*, is (or was, some few years ago) in the possession of a friend of Messrs. Phillips, printers, Brighton.

It may be confidently asserted that for more than 100 years the Oxfordshire Militia has faithfully carried out the undertaking given, on this sad occasion, by Lord Charles Spencer; and the regiment owe him a long standing debt of gratitude for having successfully interceded on its behalf, in order that it might be spared the terrible indignity of parading, to witness the execution, without arms.

Not long after this episode the regiment was actively engaged in Ireland in the suppression of the rebellion, and while there earned a high reputation for discipline and zeal. Being embodied also for several years during the period of the Crimean War and Indian Mutiny, it volunteered for service abroad, and was employed for more than a year on garrison duty at Corfu. To commemorate this service the word ‘Mediterranean’ is inscribed upon the regimental colour.

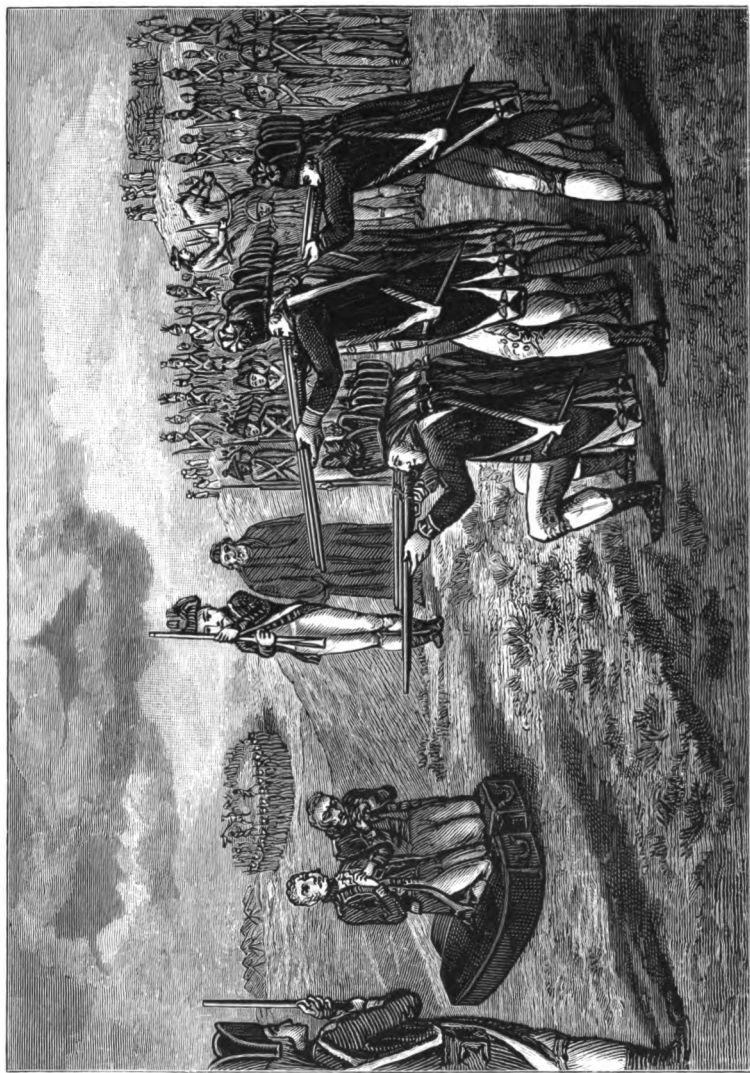
The same correspondent wrote a few days afterwards to the *Oxford Journal* as follows:—

‘Harper, sentenced to 1500 lashes, received 300; Weaver 300;

Woodmarshal 300; Blake was pardoned by the King, on account of his youth; Warren also pardoned by the King; and Heriage's sentence was remitted, on account of ill health.'

Then follows a description of the military execution of Cook and Parish, and the civil execution of Sykes and Sansom. In the *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. 65, Part I, p. 519, may be found an account of this tragedy:—

'Brighton, 14th June, 1795. The Oxfordshire Regiment marched on Friday night last, at eleven o'clock, from Seaford to attend the execution of two men condemned by a Court Martial for riotous and disorderly conduct. The hour of Four was the time appointed to assemble. On the march the Regiment halted; and twelve men who had taken a part in the riot were called out, when the Commanding Officer ordered them to fix their flints, and prepare to execute the sentence. This was done to demonstrate to the men that state of obedience in which the officers were determined to hold them; and by this measure they felt more pointedly the folly of their former conduct, when those persons whom they had before made their leaders, were now to suffer death at their hands. The Regiment was then conducted to a spacious valley, and divided into two Wings, which were stationed on each side of the place of execution. They were then followed by the whole line of encampment. On the rising ground above the valley 3000 Cavalry were posted. These were followed by all the Horse Artillery. The Guns were pointed and matches lighted. From the disposition of the ground, and from the arrangement of the troops, a more magnificent, and more awful spectacle was never exhibited in this country. After the corporal punishment had been inflicted on offenders of less note, Cook and Parish, the two unfortunate men condemned to die, were brought forward with a strong escort. They walked along the vale in slow and solemn procession, accompanied by the Clergyman who had conscientiously devoted his time to them from the moment the sentence had been made known; and they were fully prepared to meet their fate. Upon approaching the fatal spot, with resignation and religious confidence, they kneeled down upon their coffins with cool and deliberate firmness; when the one who was to drop the signal said to his comrade, "are you ready"? Upon the reply being made he dropped a prayer book; and the party did their duty at about 6 yards distance. One of them not appearing to be entirely dead, was immediately shot through the head; and the same ceremony



EXECUTION OF PRIVATES COOKE AND PARISH
GOLDSTONE BOTTOM, NEAR BRIGHTON
JUNE 14, 1795

To face p. 30

was performed to the other. After this the whole line was ordered to march round the dead bodies.'

There is a very interesting old picture in the Brighton Museum of the scene above described, showing the two poor fellows kneeling on their coffins dressed in the quaint uniform of the time.

Without wishing to attempt to minimize unduly the undoubtedly very serious nature of this incident in the history of the regiment, it may be pointed out that, although Mr. Davenport speaks of it as a 'mutiny,' this word is not used in either of the two accounts here quoted, and perhaps for sound reasons. The account in the *Gentleman's Magazine* states that the men were 'condemned for riotous and disorderly conduct,' and speaks of the affair as a 'riot,' and so it was.

It does not appear that the men were on bad terms with or disobedient to their officers, or refused in any way to do their duty. Their offence was a quarrel with, and complaint against, the tradesmen or contractors who charged, as they alleged, an exorbitant price for the necessities of life, and especially flour, while at the same time their pay was inadequate.

The average price of wheat appears to have been as high as 75s. 2d. that year, far higher than it had been for many years, though it was still higher in the following year, 1796. This circumstance, combined with the fact that the men were soon brought again under control, and did not subsequently evince any mutinous spirit, may fairly be adduced as evidence that this stain upon the escutcheon of the regiment is not of the same hue as one would be which had been caused by mutiny against its officers or cowardice in front of the enemy. It has already been stated that the regiment was known for some time afterwards, among their comrades, by the nickname of 'Big-loaf Oxford'; and there can be no doubt that this riot, so disastrous in itself, was eventually productive of much good, as the attention of the military authorities was directed to the hardships which the men, not only of the Militia, but in the regular branches of the service, were enduring, and their position was consequently improved.

1796.

At a meeting of the Deputy Lieutenants of Oxfordshire held on December 3, 1796, it was ordered—

‘that the General Clerk do write to his Grace the Duke of Portland respecting the exemption clause in the Supplemental Act, as to apprentices and clerks, and the form of a letter now read be approved of.

‘A copy of a letter sent by the Duke of Portland to the Lord Lieutenant of the County respecting the pattern of a dress for the men which may serve in the supplemental Militia was laid before the meeting, and the Clerk was directed to write to the Lord Lieutenant to desire that the patterns of this dress, and also of a cavalry soldier’s to be raised under the authority of this sessions, be sent to the office of the general clerk for inspection.’

It was also

‘ordered that the several chief constables be directed to give notice to the several petty constables and officers in their several divisions, that the lists by them respectively returned to the first subdivision meetings are to contain the names of ALL men between the ages of 18 and 45 within their jurisdiction, without regard to any exemptions whatsoever, such exemptions to be claimed and allowed before the Deputy Lieutenants at their meetings only.’

It appears from the foregoing extracts that some difficulty, at this time, was being experienced in finding sufficient men to fill the ranks of the Militia, more especially as a Bill had been introduced in Parliament for the augmentation of the Militia force, and orders had been received for the formation of a supplementary Militia.

The return of men liable for service, rendered to the Deputy Lieutenants in January, 1793, showed a total of 8,611, whereas in May, 1781, it had been 10,951, or 2,340 more.

Looking at this serious deficiency in the light of the order quoted above, that the lists ‘are to contain the names of *all* men,’ it seems highly probable that those who were responsible for making this return had become at least very lax in their manner of rendering it.

The country was at this time in constant dread of an invasion by the French, and the war panic was at its height, a large force, generally consisting of something like 30,000

men, being kept at or near the South Coast. Not only was the supplementary Militia being formed, but Volunteers and Yeomanry Cavalry were being raised, equipped, and organized by persons of influence and position all over the country. Meetings of commanding officers of the regular Militia were held to discuss steps for augmenting the establishment.

Miss Thoyts, in her *History of the Royal Berkshire Militia*, mentions that, on March 4, 1794—

‘A meeting was held in the Grand Jury Room, Reading, to consult about the plan of “Augmenting the Forces of Internal Defence.” A subscription was begun, and in the room £1,450 was subscribed.’

The neighbouring county of Berkshire, therefore, was certainly not behind hand in taking steps in the required direction, and its Militia Regiment had been, and still was, actively employed in various parts of the kingdom.

The supplementary Militia was, by the order, to consist of—

‘all stout, able young men of 5 ft. 4 in. and upwards, without families, willing to enter the Militia for the County, and to compose one company, which is to serve only with the Militia within the Kingdom during the time they are embodied, or for a less time, if His Majesty should not think their services necessary. By applying to the Clerk of the subdivision meeting of their division’ they were to ‘receive a bounty of £10, besides the marching guinea, and to enter into immediate pay, and not be liable to march out of the United Kingdom.’

1797.

On January 11, 1797, a meeting of the Deputy Lieutenants of the county, presided over by Lord Charles Spencer, was held at Oxford, when the following was noted in the minutes:—

‘A pattern cap and jacket and breeches were submitted to this meeting as the uniform of the Supplementary Militia of this County which are approved of.

‘It is ordered that one sixth part of the Supplementary Militia after inrollment be trained and exercised at one time by non-commissioned officers and others, to be appointed from the old Militia Regiment of this County for that purpose.

‘It is ordered that the men when so called out to be trained and exercised, be trained and exercised in such a manner and in such

proportions as the Deputy Lieutenants of the respective divisions shall recommend and direct, so as to enable (if possible) the men to return to their respective homes every evening with the leave of the Commanding Officer appointed to the respective districts.'

From a return made to the Lieutenancy meeting, held on January 28 of the same year, it appears that the injunction laid upon the chief constables and constables, to return the names of *all* men liable for service, had produced a good effect, as the total number returned had risen to 11,387.

The list of subdivisions appeared as follows:—

<i>Divisions.</i>	<i>Number of men in each.</i>	<i>Number of men to be raised in each.</i>
Bampton	1185	89
Bloxam and N. Division of Banbury, Town of Banbury, and Epwell Parish	1439	107
Binfield, Langtree, and Town of Henley	923	70
Bullington, Dorchester, Thame, and City and Suburbs of Oxford	2721	203
Chadlington and S. Division of Ban- bury Hundred	1399	104
Ewelme, Lewknor, and Pirton	1228	92
Ploughley	1020	77
Wootton	1472	110
	<hr/> 11,387	<hr/> 852

This meeting was held—

'in pursuance of two Acts of Parliament passed in the present Session of Parliament for providing an augmentation to the Militia,'

and, for the purpose of calling out and training this supplementary Militia, the county was divided—

'into six districts, comprising as nearly as may be one sixth of the men to be raised.'

The dates for the assembly of the men in each district were also fixed, ranging from March 6 to June 19.

On March 1 it was—

'settled and ordered that the Bounty to be paid by the Parishes to the several Militia men, in the case of their being embodied for actual service, be the sum of three guineas.'

The following minute appears under date of March 18, 1897:—

‘It is the opinion of this meeting that John Coleman, who has been drawn for the NE. Ward in Oxford, in the Supplementary Militia, and who has applied to the subdivision meeting to be excused from serving or providing a substitute on the ground of his being porter of Hertford College, and not knowing that his name had been returned in the list by the constable, is not entitled to any exemption now.’

So the unfortunate porter of Hertford College had to serve or find a substitute. What a terrible indignity it would be in these days if the porter of a college was compelled to serve in the ranks of the Militia.

The Deputy Lieutenants appear to have been very busy this year with organizing the supplementary Militia, as they held no less than six meetings for that purpose.

At one of them it was reported that a number of men, who had been sworn and enrolled in and about Binfield, Langtree, Ewelme, Pirton, and the Town of Henley, had not put in an appearance at the muster of the first division on March 6, and they were ordered to attend the meeting of the next division.

Their names, addresses, and occupations, to the number of thirty-three, are recorded, and it may be of some interest to give a few of them as examples.

The first twelve were substitutes:—

Peppard: John Raby, substitute for Zachariah Lucas.

Shiplake: Robert Smith, substitute for John Gomon.

Crowmarsh Battle: John Greenwood, substitute for Matthew Taylor; and nine others.

Then follow:—

John Neale, St. Peter's, Oxford, plumber.

Benjamin Hopkins, St. Peter's, Oxford, cordwainer.

James Wilson, St. Giles', Oxford, groom.

John Roberts, St. Michael's, Oxford, cabinet maker.

Thomas Charles, Addington, labourer; and sixteen others.

Some time after the sad occurrence, recorded as having taken place near Brighton, the regiment was marched from Blatchington to the Camp at Sheerness in Kent, and from there, in October, to Chelmsford Barracks for the winter.

1798-1802.

According to the *Monthly Army List* for May, 1798, the regiment was then quartered at Ipswich, and the officers serving were—

Col. Lord Charles Spencer.

Lieut.-Col. W. Gore Langton.

Major Thomas Velley.

Capt. Francis Wastie.

„ Thomas Toovey.

„ F. Sackville Lloyd.

„ John Henry Tillson.

„ John Osmer.

Capt.-Lieut. Henry T. Austen.

Lieut. William Stephens.

„ Thomas Clay.

„ John Pusey Edwards.

„ Thomas Parrott.

„ Thomas Howson.

„ Robert Cooch.

„ George Wood.

„ S. Newell.

„ J. Hitchins.

„ T. B. Webb.

Ensign John Kent.

„ H. Wood.

Adjutant Henry Thomas Austen.

Quartermaster Thomas Clay.

Surgeon William Stephens.

Mr. Davenport, in his *Sketch of the History of the Regiment*, says that—

‘Next, it should be prominently recorded that in 1798 the Oxfordshire Militia was actually engaged for more than a year in Ireland in suppressing the Rebellion there. At that time Lord Charles Spencer was the Colonel, John Weyland the Lieutenant-Colonel, and John Fane (father of John William Fane, who afterwards commanded the Regiment for many years) was the Major. On the passage across the channel an amusing incident occurred, which was a standing joke in the County against one of the Field Officers for many years subse-

quently. He was so irritated by sea sickness that, in his extremity, he vainly implored the Captain to stop the ship and let him get out. He was in command of a wing of the Regiment, and this wing narrowly escaped shipwreck.'

The following letter, in evidence of the character of the Oxfordshire Militia when in Ireland, has (by leave) been transcribed from the *Home Office Letter Book*, vol. i :—

'DOWNING STREET,

' 18th Oct., 1799.

' MY LORD,—

' I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of 16th instant, and to inform your Lordship that the Instructions which it has been my duty to give to the officers commanding the respective Militia Regiments for the execution of the provisions of the late Act of Parliament, will not at present be forwarded to the Oxfordshire Regiment of Militia, as it is not intended that any alteration which may result from it in the Establishment of that Corps, shall take place before its return to England.

' The very commendable disposition which has been manifested by the Regiment to continue its services in Ireland till toward Christmas, will certainly be a material convenience to Government during the present period, and I have no doubt that every attention consistent with circumstances at the time, will be paid to the very natural wish they have expressed to be stationed near their Families and Friends on their return from that Kingdom.

' I have the honor to be, &c.

' HENRY DUNDAS.

' To the Right Hon^{ble} Lord Charles Spencer.'

As evidence of the extreme pressure existing at this time to obtain men, it may be mentioned that, at a meeting held in February, 1798, presided over by the Duke of Marlborough, Lord Lieutenant of the county, steps were taken, in accordance with a letter received from the Secretary of State for War, to call out a portion of the supplementary Militia and to augment the number of men in the several companies of the regular Militia by incorporating the supplementary Militia with them.

The age limit of men residing in the different subdivisions, whose names were to be returned by the constables, &c., was also altered so as to include all those of the age of fifteen

years and under sixty years. The constables were also ordered to make a return of—

‘all Boats, Barges, Waggon, Carts and Horses, either for draft or riding within their respective jurisdictions.’

The men of the supplementary Militia, who had been balloted for in order to join the regular Militia, were embodied at Henley-on-Thames on March 9.

There can be no doubt that the fear of invasion was acute, for it was also unanimously resolved—

‘that the persons who shall declare to be willing to engage to be armed, arrayed, trained, exercised, and formed into Corps for the defence of the Kingdom shall engage themselves under the following conditions, viz.—That they shall not be liable to be called out and placed under the command of any General Officer commanding within the district in which such Corps may be formed, except in case of actual invasion, or of the actual appearance of the Enemy on the Coast, or of the danger of Invasion being deemed so imminent as to make it advisable for the Lieutenant or Deputy Lieutenants to give order for the removal of cattle.’

These volunteers were to be trained and exercised once a week for three hours, for which drill they were to be paid one shilling. They were to be provided, at the public expense, with muskets or pikes, and also with a uniform clothing, or fair allowance to provide the same.

It certainly cannot be said that those in authority in the County of Oxford at this time were either backward in organization for defence or in exhorting the people to rise to their responsibilities in the matter, as the language of the following resolution will testify:—

‘That it is the indispensable duty of persons of every description voluntarily to come forward in the present important crisis and to use their utmost exertions for the defence of the Constitution and Independence of their Country, which are threatened with destruction by a powerful and implacable enemy.’

On May 16 an order also for the calling out of the remainder of the supplementary Militia was made, and they were duly embodied for service at Henley on the 30th.

This eloquent and stirring appeal appears to have been

well responded to, for shortly afterwards, the Lord Lieutenant and his Deputies, in meeting assembled, recorded their thanks—

‘to all those loyal and well disposed inhabitants of the County that have spiritedly come forward with a tender of their services at this important crisis.’

Proposals for the organization of a volunteer force were invited from influential people in the county, and also for—

‘associations of gentlemen and Yeomanry Cavalry within the County at large or in Towns.’

At this period the daily pay and stoppages of Marching Regiments, Embodied Militia, and Fencible Infantry, according to Royal Warrant, were—Pay-Sergeants, 1s. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; Corporals, 1s. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.; Privates, 1s.

Out of this the soldier—

‘is to defray the whole expense of his bread and meat, except when meat shall exceed 6d. per lb., such excess to be allowed upon $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of meat and 1 lb. of bread a day per man. When soldiers are permitted to find their own lodging they are to be allowed 2d. per day additional. In Barracks small beer to be allowed. In Camp, where small beer is not provided, or where the soldier has 6 lbs. of bread every 4 days for 5d., he is allowed 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per week additional.’

The following was the—

‘list of necessaries to be provided by stoppage from the pay of the soldiers of Regiments of Foot, Militia, and Fencible Infantry:—

	<i>Per annum.</i>	
	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
For 2 pairs of black cloth gaiters at 4s. per pair	8	0
„ a second pair of breeches	6	6
„ hair leather	2	$\frac{1}{2}$
„ 2 pairs of shoes at 6s. per pair	12	0
„ mending shoes	4	0
„ 1 pair of stockings or 2 pair of socks	1	6
„ 2 shirts at 5s. 6d. per shirt	11	0
„ a foraging cap	1	3
„ a knapsack at 6s. once in 6 years	1	0
„ pipeclay and whiting	4	4
„ a clothes brush at 1s. once in 2 years		6
„ 3 shoe brushes at 5d. per brush	1	3

	<i>Per annum.</i>	
	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
For blackball	2	0
„ worsted mitts		9
„ a powdering bag and puff once every 3 years at 1s. 6d.		6
„ 2 combs at 6d. per comb	1	0
„ grease and powder for the hair	3	0
„ washing at 4d. per week	17	4
	<hr/> £3 16 1½ <hr/>	

It would appear, therefore, that, as a private soldier only received 7s. per week, and his stoppages amounted to nearly 1s. 6d., taking the cost of his necessary food at 5s., he had only 6d. per week to put in his pocket without making any allowance for extra expenses.

During this time of intense excitement the Oxfordshire Militia regiment was in Ireland, where a troublesome rebellion was not making matters easier for the Government. It does not appear to be certain at what date they returned to England, but the Secretary of State for War, in his letter to Lord Charles Spencer, dated October 18, 1799, speaks of the offer of the regiment to extend its service in Ireland till towards Christmas. It is probable, therefore, that it did not return home till December of that year, or perhaps not until early in 1800, when it was disembodied.

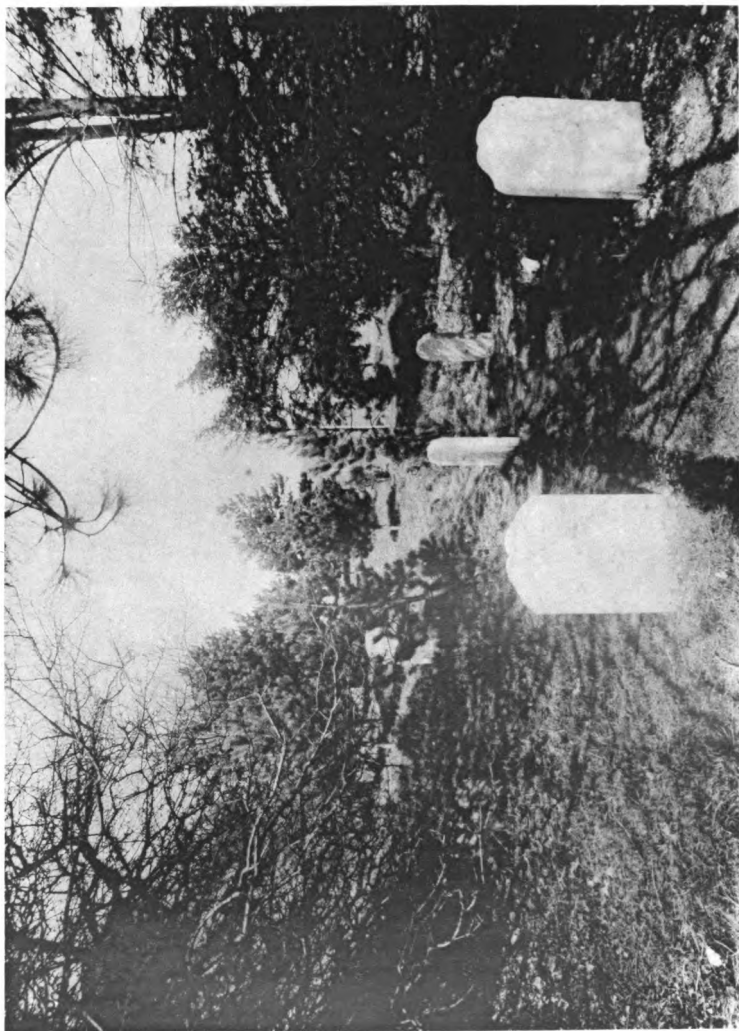
A return rendered in August, 1799, by Colonel W. Gore Langton, commanding the regiment, gives the number of privates actually serving as 966. The establishment being 1,130, 160 men were required to complete the strength.

1803-4.

On March 13, 1803, the regiment was again embodied, and in that year, and in 1804, was employed on garrison duty at Dover Castle.

Owing to a serious epidemic which arose, many of the men died, and were buried in a little cemetery on the eastern slope of the hill on which the castle stands. The names of nineteen of the men who died between October 9, 1803, and October 29, 1804, are recorded on five headstones. On the back of one of these stones is the following inscription:—

‘These memorials of private soldiers of the Oxfordshire Regiment



GRAVES OF MEN ON SLOPE OF DOVER CASTLE

To face p. 41

of Militia were originally erected by Colonel Lord Charles Spencer, restored in 1841 by Colonel William Gore Langton, M.P., and, in 1871, renewed by Colonel John W. Fane.'

In 1897 the Senior Major of the battalion, Lieut.-Col. Willan, being in Dover, paid a visit to the spot. He found the place sadly neglected, and several of the tombstones (together with those recording the names of men of two other Militia regiments which had been quartered there at the same time) overturned and broken. After making a list of the men's names and dates of death he reported the fact to Colonel Rivers Bulkeley, the Commanding Officer, who immediately took steps, with the permission of the officer commanding the Royal Engineers at Dover, to have the ground and tombstones once more put in thorough order. No less than four colonels of the regiment have therefore taken care that the resting-place of these poor fellows shall not be forgotten or the record of their names obliterated¹.

At a general meeting of the Lieutenancy of the County, held at the Star Inn, Oxford, on April 9, 1803—

'in pursuance of certain Acts for raising an additional Military Force, and for the more effectual defence and security of the Realm, and for enabling His Majesty more speedily to exercise His prerogative of requiring the Military Service of His subjects in case of invasion of the Realm,'

¹ I am reminded here, by the allusion to the burying-place of these militiamen, of a very quaint epitaph on a tombstone still standing about fifty yards from the west door of Winchester Cathedral, well known to those interested in curiosities of this kind. The inscription runs as follows:—

'In memory of Thomas Thatcher, a Grenadier in the North Regiment of Hants Militia, who died of a violent fever contracted by drinking small beer when hot, on the 12th of May, 1764, aged 26 years. In grateful remembrance of whose universal good-will towards his comrades this stone is placed here at their expense as a small testimony of their regard and concern.

Here sleeps in peace a Hampshire Grenadier,
Who caught his death by drinking cold small beer.
Soldiers be wise from his untimely fall,
And, when ye're hot, drink strong, or none at all.

This memorial being decayed was restored by the officers of the Garrison, A. D. 1781.

An honest soldier never is forgot,
Whether he die by musket or by pot.

This stone was placed by the North Hants Militia when disembodied at Winchester, on 26th April, 1802, in consequence of the original stone being destroyed.

F. W.

which meeting was attended by George Earl of Macclesfield (chairman), Earl Harcourt, and many others; it was resolved that—

‘This meeting taking into consideration the blessings we enjoy, under the protection of Almighty God, in this free and happy Country, do think it our duty, in this time of imminent danger, to make as public as possible our determination to stand or fall with our King and Country. That, weighing the threats of a daring, ambitious, and inveterate foe to invade this Land, with intent to annihilate and overthrow its Constitution in Church and State; and, by openly and avowedly declaring his intentions of giving up to rapine and plunder the persons and properties of the inhabitants of this happy Island, do resolve that the most vigorous measures should be immediately adopted to carry into effect the above Acts of Parliament. And we do pledge ourselves personally to stand forward in defence of our King, our Religion, Laws, and Liberty; and for this end we do earnestly recommend to every inhabitant of this County to use his best exertions, and to train and prepare himself in such a manner as to enable him to aid and assist the Military and Yeomary Corps already established, in repelling the attempts of this implacable enemy. And we do further recommend to the inhabitants at large of this County immediately to enrol themselves as Volunteers in convenient Districts, under proper Leaders, to be trained and exercised in such a manner as Government may direct. And we do further recommend that subscriptions should be set on foot in the respective Districts in order to defray any proper expense that may accrue by carrying these resolutions into effect, and by giving encouragement to those who may stand forward in defence of their King and Country.’

If this lofty and martial rhetoric did not stir the patriotic breasts of the inhabitants of Oxfordshire to their inmost depths, they must have been very dull and invertebrate folk. Those who were responsible for raising armed men were, at any rate, not behind hand with their duty, or backward in placing on record their opinion of the gravity of the situation. If this quotation reveals the amount of fear of imminent invasion by an ‘implacable enemy’ existing in a midland county, what must have been the state of mind at this time of the inhabitants of Kent and Sussex?

The following gentlemen at once came forward in response

to this appeal, and expressed their readiness to serve as officers and to receive the enrollment of volunteers in their respective neighbourhoods:—

Lord Charles Spencer.
John Fane, Esq.
Francis Penyston, Esq.
Samuel Gardiner, Esq.
John Langston, Esq.
Philip Wykham, Esq.
Hon. Thomas Parker.
Francis Wastie, Esq.
Thomas Ashhurst, Esq.
Lieut.-Colonel Cox.
Browne Mostyn, Esq.
Mr. Mostyn, junior.
William Lechmere, Esq.
J. L. Powys, junior, Esq.
John Cooper, Esq.
John ATKYNS Wright, Esq.
John Lenthal, Esq.

A truly fine list of good county names.

Much activity must have been displayed in this matter because, on August 30, it was—

‘resolved that it appears to this Committee that the offers of regular Volunteer Corps already made, and likely to be made, in the County of Oxford, will constitute a sufficient number of men to justify the suspension of the General Defence Act within the said County.’

Buonaparte had boasted that ‘15 millions of people must give way to 40 millions.’ In Green’s *History of England* it is stated that ‘300,000 volunteers mustered in England to meet the coming attack.’ This was the answer to the threat of this ‘daring, ambitious, and inveterate foe.’

The current price in the county for the hire of a substitute by any one drawn to serve in the Militia was at this time £10.

The Deputy Lieutenants at their meeting in April ordered the general clerk—

‘to take the opinion of the Attorney or Solicitor General whether the Deputy Lieutenants and Justices have power under the 50th

Section of the Act to enforce the payment, from Quakers balloted, of more than £10 each in cases where substitutes cannot be hired for so little as that sum, and also as to what balloted persons will be entitled under the 122nd Section of the Act to receive from their respective Parishes the half of the current price for a substitute.'

By this it appears that the conscientious objections to serve their country on the part of the peace-loving Quakers, when drawn by ballot, constituted a difficulty. It was not always possible to obtain a substitute for £10, and the authorities do not seem to have been inclined on such occasions to let men of this persuasion go free by only paying a fine of this amount.

The uniform selected for the volunteers was the same as the County Militia, 'scarlet faced with yellow.' It was also ordered that, in case the Volunteer Corps should be called out for actual service, the place of rendezvous for the Oxford Cavalry should be Oxford, and for the Wheatley and Cuddesdon Infantry, Wheatley.

During 1803 there appear to have been no less than twelve meetings of the Lord Lieutenant and Deputy Lieutenants held at Oxford, an unusually large number, and some of them were attended by Major-General Gwynn, who had been placed in command of a military district, comprising the counties of Oxford, Buckingham, Northampton, and Bedford.

1805.

In November, 1805, the Oxfordshire Militia was quartered in Colchester Barracks; the strength of the regiment being 25 officers and 694 rank and file.

List of officers, 1805, with dates of their commissions:—

Colonel William Gore Langton, October 24, 1798.

Lieut.-Col. J. H. Telfon, June 4, 1803.

Major Thomas Perrott, 1803.

„ Martin Wall, July 14, 1805.

Capt. John Stratton, October 3, 1802.

„ George Fortescue Turville, March 25, 1803.

„ Richard Weyland, June 4, 1803.

„ H. M. Wordle, July 2, 1803.

Capt. Price Edwards, September 27, 1803.
„ John Goldfinch, 1803.
Lieut. Samuel P. Newell, February 8, 1797.
„ Robert Belcher, May 12, 1798.
„ Thomas Y. Eldridge, May 12, 1798.
„ John Degweed, April 6, 1803.
„ William Davis, September 27, 1803.
„ Thomas Cox, June 17, 1805.
„ B. B. Hawley, 1805.
Ensign Thomas Lupton, June 4, 1803.
„ David Stockford, December 26, 1803.
„ Samuel Goode, 1803.
Adjutant C. J. Clinton.
Paymaster David Stockford.
Quartermaster William Randall.
Surgeon John Kent.
Asst.-Surgeon Thomas Lupton.
„ Samuel Goode.

1806.

The regiment had left Colchester and was now in Taunton, a return of men who had died, deserted, or been discharged since March 6, 1806, having been made by the Colonel, dated October 4, 1806.

A sad accident happened to a senior officer of the regiment this year, an account of which is given in a pamphlet by a fellow traveller, Mr. I. Bain, in the following words:—

‘Thomas Velley, Esq., of Bath, was, during a long period, successively Major and Lieut.-Colonel of the Oxfordshire Militia. He was an accomplished scholar and an excellent man. On the 13th of June, 1806, he started by the Bath coach from the new White Horse Cellar, Piccadilly, to travel to Bath. While stopping at the Castle Inn at Reading to change horses, Colonel Velley remained inside the coach, whilst all the other passengers alighted. Just as the new horses were attached to the coach their attendant left them for a moment, and the horses ran away. The Colonel alarmed at his situation, jumped out of the coach, upon which a concussion of the brain ensued, and he died in a few hours.’

1807.

By an order in Council, issued in February, 1807, the Militia force of the country was raised to 200,000 men, apportioned among the different counties according to the number of men returned by each of them as liable to serve. The quota for Oxfordshire was 2,502 men, and steps were taken to enrol this number. By the last return made from the subdivisions the total number of men liable to serve was 9,982, about one-fourth of this number therefore were to be called out.

The price of a substitute had now risen to £20, and this also was the amount of the fine incurred by the non-appearance of a man who had been drawn by ballot, the fine being leviable by distress.

The question of the possible necessity of again bringing the ballot for the Militia into force having been discussed on several occasions, both in and out of Parliament, during the last few years, it may not be out of place to quote here an interesting letter from the pen of 'Civis' upon the ballot for the Militia, and the injurious effect of bounties, published in the *Times* on December 28, 1898:—

'SIR,—Will Lord Wemyss, or some other advocate of a Militia for home defence raised on the principle of compulsory service, kindly say what the force is to which he proposes to apply the principle? Is it the existing General Militia, to use the term in vogue at the beginning of this century? If so, allow me to point out, as briefly as possible, some of the inevitable consequences of any such proceeding.

'The moment war is declared between this country and any Great Power, it is certain that the Militia will be embodied, and will become for all practical purposes a permanent force. It is also certain that this permanently embodied force will become in fact, if not in name, part and parcel of the Regular forces, for it is impossible to suppose that enlistment from the existing Militia into the Line will ever again be prohibited, as was the case prior to 1799. When, however, the prohibition was removed in that year, the old constitutional force lost once and for all its rôle as a distinct army of home defence and became what it remained during the Great War—viz. a reservoir from which to replenish the offensive forces of the Crown, one hundred thousand recruits having been passed from the Militia into

the Line between the years 1803 and 1813. But conscription cannot in justice be applied to such a permanent reserve force, unless at the same time the principle of substitution is admitted. And substitution entails bounties, and bounties, again, poison all the sources of recruiting. So great is the importance of this subject at the present time, seeing that Lord Lansdowne has promised Parliament that the machinery for administering the ballot shall be revised and brought up to date, that I venture to ask you to allow me to quote Mr. Windham's indictment of the system of ballot, bounties, and substitutes.

'Speaking in the House of Commons in 1807, the year after he had been War Minister in the Grenville Administration, Mr. Windham gave the following warning, which is as pregnant with meaning to-day as it was at the time that it was uttered :—

" . . . As the Militia assumed a more regular form, as the practice gradually prevailed of calling it out and keeping it constantly subdivided (i.e. embodied) during every war, as its discipline improved, and the practice of substitution took the place of that of serving in person, its effects upon the Army began to be severely felt. The demand for substitutes on the part of men placed in circumstances the most disadvantageous for obtaining what they wanted upon reasonable terms soon brought things to a state in which service in the Militia (a service for a few years, and within the kingdom) could be purchased only at a high premium, and in which, therefore, men could hardly be looked for in great numbers who would be willing to forgo this premium and enter the Army for nothing.

"The only expedient that occurred for remedying this evil was to give a bounty for the Army also, and thus to enable the Army to hold up its head and bid against the Militia.

"But though this succeeded for a time, its very success was such as contained a principle destructive of its continuance, the effect of the competition being to raise the price upon both services till at length a sort of limit was produced, not merely by the consideration of expense, but by the effect which the high bounties had in producing desertion. Nothing now was thought to be left but to have recourse to compulsion—that is to say, ballot ; but, as the ballot could not be applied directly to the Army, the expedient devised was to augment the Militia, in order that afterwards the men might be induced by bounty to extend their services and become soldiers complete.

"Ballot created the necessity of bounty. Bounty rising to excess, and losing as much by desertion as it gained by recruits, created in

return the necessity of new ballot; then bounties shot up to a height which not only stopped all ordinary recruiting, but created a burden which it was impossible the country could long endure. Forty, fifty, and sixty guineas became the price of a recruit. Ballot and bounties were indeed the only resources that seemed ever to have been thought of."

'Such a warning uttered by a man who knew better perhaps than any other what the system of ballot tempered by substitution meant needs no comment. The great struggle waged by our forefathers against Napoleon will have been in vain if conscription for the General Militia is ever again introduced in this country. Vain, too, will be the experience purchased so dearly in that struggle unless the nation recognizes now, while it is not too late, that Volunteers alone, however numerous and patriotic they may be, are an insufficient guarantee for home defence, and that the true backbone of the defence of the kingdom is, and must ever be, the old general levy based on the principle that every citizen must, in case of need, be prepared to accept the responsibility of defending his own home.

'Nor is supreme sea-power a sufficient excuse for refusing to recognize this obligation, for it was in 1808—three years, that is to say, after Trafalgar—that the true Militia form of service was revived in this country under the name of the Local Militia.

'I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
'CIVIS.'

1808.

A local or, as it was commonly called, new Militia was established in this year under Statute 48 George III, cap. 3, in order to take the place of the regular Militia when away from their county on active service.

At a meeting of the Deputy Lieutenants on November 12, held as usual at the Star Inn, Oxford, a long letter from the Secretary of State for War was read, which contained, among other information concerning the new Act, the following announcement:—

'His Majesty has at the same time commanded me to call upon your Grace to submit for his consideration a plan for the arrangement of the Local Militia Force of the County under your charge (including the deficiency in the quota for the County which will be to be supplied by ballot) forming it into Regiments of not less than 700, or more than 1,200 privates, and dividing the County into suitable divisions for the maintenance of each Regiment in the manner pointed out by the 5th Clause of the Act above mentioned.'

This new local Militia was largely composed of volunteers who transferred their services to it, and it was announced by the Secretary of State that—

‘where only a part of a Corps transfers its services into the Local Militia, it is his Majesty’s pleasure that the services of the remaining members thereof should be forthwith discontinued in all cases where the numbers are not sufficient to form a Volunteer Corps of at least 3 companies of 60 Private Men each.’

The Deputy Lieutenants of the county came to the conclusion that—

‘from the present effective Volunteer Force it will be only necessary at present to raise one Battalion by Ballot, and that it will be right that such Battalion should be raised by Ballot generally throughout the County, due regard being had in each Hundred to the number of existing effective Volunteers serving therein.’

The county was, for this purpose, divided into four divisions, each of which was to maintain a battalion of local Militia, the quota of men to be supplied by the several hundreds being six times the amount of the original quota under 42 Geo. III. cap. 90.

The four battalions in March, 1809, were constituted as follows:—

follows :—					
North Division	{	Hundred of Bloxham, North	498	}	1014
		Division of Banbury Hundred and Town of Banbury . .			
East Division	{	Wootton	516	}	1044
		Hundreds of Ploughley . .	318		
		Bullingdon, Dorchester, and Uni- versity and City of Oxford .	726		
South Division	{	Hundreds of Binfield, Langtree, and Henley Town . .	306	}	792
		Ewelme, Lewknor, and Pirton .	366		
		Thame	120		
West Division	{	The Hundred of Bampton .	348	}	768
		The Hundred of Chadlington and S. Division of Banbury	420		
		Hundred			
					3618

It was arranged that these battalions should be trained in their own divisions, and although it had been at first contemplated to raise one regiment out of the whole county, it

was eventually decided, at a meeting held in February, that an effort should be made to raise the above mentioned battalions in separate divisions, the officers and men for each being drawn only from that division. It was anticipated that large numbers of the volunteers would transfer their services to the local Militia, and under these circumstances it was agreed not to proceed to a ballot at present.

The foregoing resolutions and arrangements for raising this new force were published in the local papers, and hand-bills, explaining the conditions of service and inviting volunteers and others to enrol themselves, were distributed in the different parishes.

In June the matter had so far progressed that the General Clerk was able to lay the following detailed return before the meeting of the Lieutenancy. By this it will be seen that the total quota of men to be raised for the four new Militia battalions was (as before stated) 3,618, towards which 1,477 effective yeomanry and volunteers might be reckoned, leaving 2,141 men to be raised by voluntary enrolment or the ballot.

Divisions.	Subdivisions.	Quota for each Subdivision.	Total quota for each Division.	Yeomanry and Volunteers to be allowed for each Subdivision.	Deficiency to be supplied either by voluntary enrolment or by ballot.	Total deficiency to be supplied by each Division.
North	{ Bloxham Hundred and N. Division of Banbury Hundred and Town of Banbury	498	—	194	304	421
	{ Remainder of Wootton Hundred	462	960	—	—	
East	{ Ploughley Hundred.	318	—	345	117	356
	{ Bullington, Dorchester, Oxford	726	1044	141	177	
South	{ Thame Hundred	120	—	547	179	663
	{ Ewelme, Lewknor, and Pyrton	366	792	65	55	
West	{ Binfield, Langtree, Henley	306	—	57	309	701
	{ Bampton Hundred	348	—	7	299	
West	{ Chadlington Hundred and South Division of Banbury Hundred	420	822	78	270	701
	{ Parishes in Wootton Hundred, viz. Coggs, Wilcot, Stanton Harcourt, Southleigh, Shipton-on-Cherwell, and Dunthorp	54	—	43	377	
	Totals	3618	3618	1477	2141	2141



COLOURS OF EASTERN DIVISION OF LOCAL MILITIA

1808

To face p. 30

1810.

It had been enacted by sect. 106 of the General Militia Act that the arms, accoutrements, clothing, and other stores of any Militia regiment, when not embodied, should be kept in some convenient place selected by the officer commanding, subject to the approval of the Lord Lieutenant. For this purpose the general meeting of the Lieutenancy of the county was empowered to provide (if necessary to build) such a store and to charge the cost upon the county rates.

In accordance with this authority the colonels of the four battalions of local Militia were, in January, 1810, directed to provide stores for their respective battalions, and the County Treasurer was authorized to pay a sum not exceeding £30 for each.

The Lieutenant-Colonels commanding the four battalions were:—the 1st or Western Division, Lieut.-Colonel Lord Francis Almaric Spencer; 2nd or South Division, Lieut.-Colonel John Fane; 3rd or Northern Division, Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. Thomas Parker; 4th or Eastern Division, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Edwin Sandys, Bart.

During the summer of this year each of the battalions was assembled for training. All enrolled men who were absent were either ‘apprehended or otherwise proceeded against as defaulters,’ having incurred a penalty of £20.

With regard to the regular Militia and the whereabouts of the battalion at this time, Mr. Davenport relates that:—

‘In 1809 the Regiment was on garrison duty at Gosport, whence it was sent, on preventive service duty, to Littlehampton, where it remained for many months. During that time the Regiment was brigaded at Brighton under the review of the Prince of Wales, afterwards George the Fourth.’

Where the battalion had been since the early part of 1807, when it was at Taunton, does not appear clear, although it may have remained there until moved to Gosport.

1811-15.

From Littlehampton the regiment was marched to the Tower of London, where it did garrison duty for a year, and

then was sent to Bristol. From Bristol it was ordered again to Ireland, and it was in 1813 that the regiment embarked at Pill, near Bristol, for the Cove of Cork. From Cork the regiment marched into barracks at Bandon; and its next route was to Carlisle Fort, Camden Fort, and Spyke Island, the head-quarters being at the Cove of Cork. The regiment remained in Ireland until peace with France was proclaimed, when, upon its return to Oxford, it was immediately ordered to Portsmouth on garrison duty, and remained there for six months. After this the regiment was disembodied.

The actual date of arrival in Oxford from Ireland was October 26, 1815, and the regiment immediately marched to Portsmouth, being finally disembodied on February 2, 1815.

The Berkshire Regiment also, ever an old friend and neighbour of the Oxfordshire, left Plymouth for Cork in May, 1813, and was subsequently quartered (according to Miss Thoyts) at Middleton, Athlone, Galway, Tuam, and Newry, whence in September, 1815, it too embarked for Liverpool, where it remained for some time, until disembodied in March, 1816.

The Cambridge, South Lincoln, Carmarthen, and Cumberland Militia Regiments were also in Ireland at this period, one and all earning great praise by their good conduct.

With regard to the local Militia at this time, the General Clerk laid before a meeting of the Lieutenancy of the county on January 13, 1813, a statement he had received from the colonel commanding the Oxfordshire Regiment of (regular) Militia, representing that—

‘the present effective strength of the Regiment is 622 private men, and the establishment allowed being only 603, this leaves an excess of 19 men.’

It was ordered therefore—

‘that no ballot at present be taken for the Regular Militia.’

At the same meeting the Vice-Lieutenant of the county laid before the meeting a warrant he had received from Lord Sidmouth, under the sign manual of the Prince Regent—

‘that such number of private men should serve in the Local Militia of this County as shall be necessary to complete the said Local Militia to 2,412 private men;’

and that all vacancies from death and other causes enumerated

‘should from time to time be filled up according to the provisions of the Act, so that the said Local Militia should be kept complete to the full number of 2,412 private men.’

Some rearrangement of the parishes allotted to the different divisions of the county was made, so that each battalion might consist of 603 privates, and the number of parishes in each division then stood at:—

- 1st or Western Division, 86 parishes.
- 2nd or Southern Division, 97 parishes.
- 3rd or Northern Division, 59 parishes.
- 4th or Eastern Division, 77 parishes.

List of officers, with dates of their commissions, 1816:—

Colonel William Gore Langton, October 24, 1798.

Lieut.-Col. R. M. Popham Wall, October 14, 1811.

Major John Goldfinch, May 17, 1812.

Capt. Taylor Garnett, February 25, 1808.

„ Riggs Falkiner, February 5, 1809.

„ William Lionel Lampet, March 1, 1810.

„ Benjamin Price, December 5, 1811.

„ Charles John Marsack, June 25, 1812.

„ Henry Philip Powys, March 27, 1814.

„ George Anstice, May 6, 1814.

Lieut. David Stockford, April 1, 1807.

„ John Pye, April 20, 1807.

„ William Davis, November 4, 1807.

„ John Reynolds Roads, November 6, 1809.

„ George Dalmer, September 10, 1811.

„ James Wildey, December 4, 1812.

„ Francis Forsyth, April 13, 1813.

„ William Scott, November 6, 1813.

„ William Brown, April 1, 1814.

„ Sweton Grant, September 7, 1814.

Ensign Robert Roberts, August 4, 1812.

„ Leoline Jones, July 31, 1813.

„ Barnard Lindsey Watson, November 6, 1813.

Adjutant John Pye, January 1, 1806.

Quartermaster William Randall, December 26, 1803.

Surgeon George North Robinson, July 28, 1810.

1816-35.

So far as the Regular Militia Regiment was concerned (now disembodied), the trainings became intermittent up to the year 1831, when the Militia was suspended throughout the kingdom until 1852, in which year it was revived upon an entirely new footing, chiefly at the instance of the Duke of Wellington, who was strongly in favour of its reorganization.

The first annual training held since the disembodiment in 1815 was at Oxford in 1820. On that occasion 127 men were absent for various reasons, and an order was issued for the vacancies to be filled up, the clerks of the various subdivisions being also urged to use due diligence in the apprehension and punishment of deserters. The only other trainings, for periods varying from twenty-one to twenty-eight days, were in October, 1821; May, 1823; May, 1825; May, 1828, and September, 1831.

Mr. Davenport states that—

‘although the Militia, as a body, was suspended for the interval in question, a staff of 36 Non-commissioned Officers was maintained in Oxford; and a memorable duty devolved upon them in 1830, when, in conjunction with two troops of the 4th Dragoon Guards, a company of the Coldstream Guards, the Oxfordshire Yeomanry, and the Buckinghamshire Yeomanry, they co-operated at Otmoor in this County in the harassing duty, day and night, of quelling the unhappy riots occasioned by the prejudices of the inhabitants of the Otmoor Townships against the inclosure of the large commons and waste ground of Otmoor.’

In a criminal trial which ensued upon the Otmoor riots, one of the counsel for the defence facetiously quoted the following stanza:—

The fault is great in man or woman
Who steals a goose from off a common;
But who can plead that man's excuse
Who steals the common from the goose.

In 1846, Ireland being in a disturbed state and the embodiment of the Militia appearing imminent, steps were taken

to fill up the commissioned ranks, and eleven or twelve additional officers were appointed by the Lord Lieutenant, all of whom were county men. The necessity of this precaution however passed away, and the Militia force was not called out.

An annual certificate was required by Statute from the Lord Lieutenant of the county as to the state of the Militia, and by that given at the Epiphany Sessions, 1835, under the hand of George Earl of Macclesfield, Lord Lieutenant of the county of Oxford, it appears that the roll of officers and non-commissioned officers consisted of the following:—

Colonel William Gore Langton.

Lieut.-Col. Charles Oldfield Bowles.

Major John William Fane.

Capt. William Lionel Lampet.

„ Edward Henry Cole.

„ Michael Elijah Impey.

„ Hugh Hamersley.

Lieut. David Stockford.

„ William Davis.

„ John Reynolds Roads.

„ William Scott.

„ William Brown.

„ Sweeton Grant.

„ Bernard Lindsey Watson.

„ Charles James Preedy.

„ Thomas Robert Winter.

Ensigns Robert Roberts.

„ John Ireland.

„ Valentine Horatio Hewlett.

„ John Ellis Churchill.

Adjutant Samuel Dudley.

Paymaster David Stockford.

Surgeon George North Robinson.

Assist.-Surgeon Robert Roberts.

„ John Ireland.

Together with sixteen sergeants.

There were wanting to complete the establishment—four captains, one lieutenant, and two ensigns.

COLONEL CROWDER'S DIARY,

1852-1885,

WITH ANNOTATIONS BY LIEUT.-COL. WILLAN.



1852.

It was in the autumn of this year that the first annual training of the regiment took place at Woodstock. An amusing account of that training has been given by one who took part in it.

One Austin was Serjt.-Major and Meadows Quartermaster Serjeant, the rest of the Permanent Staff consisting of a few worn out old men quite unfit for duty. The one attached to No. 4 Company went on the sick list immediately on arriving at Woodstock, and did no duty during the whole training of twenty-one days.

The officer commanding this company had no one to assist him but Militia serjeants (recruits, of course, like the rest of the men), who, if possible, knew less about military duty than he did. He had to make out his own pay sheet, call the roll, and in fact do the work of a Pay-Serjeant.

Six non-commissioned officers of the Guards were sent down to drill the companies, and did very good service, confined mostly to setting up and company drill. Some officers of the Bedfordshire Militia, who had just finished their training, came to criticize the Oxfordshire, and told Capt. Cuming, the adjutant, what their men could do. His reply was to the effect that his men would be able to do all that some day, but that at present he wished to teach them to walk before they attempted to run.

The clothing did not arrive for some days, and when it did it turned out to be of the old coatee pattern. Most of the suits were

evidently intended for men of six feet in height, and as the Oxfordshire men averaged about five feet six inches, and had no master tailor to make alteration, it may be imagined that they did not present a very smart appearance.

The strength of the regiment was 481 men, and the officers present were :—

Col. C. O. Bowles.	Capt. T. O. Pipon.
Lieut.-Col. J. W. Fane.	„ S. W. Gardiner.
Major Whimore Jones.	Lieut. W. W. Holloway.
Capt. A. M. Storer.	„ F. C. F. Turvile.
„ G. A. S. Fane.	Ensign Spencer Field.
„ A. M. Matthews.	Adj. G. Cuming, Capt.

Surgeon, H. T. T. Palmer.

The commissioned ranks having not yet been filled up.

The regiment, as here recorded by Colonel Crowder, was trained in 1852 for twenty-one days at Woodstock. There had been considerable difference of opinion as to the fitness of the town for the purpose. The Lord Lieutenant had fixed upon Woodstock, subject to the Queen's approval, but the Deputy Lieutenants held a meeting, and expressing a strong opinion that it was not a suitable town, and that under Statute 42 Geo. III. c. 90, § 87, the appointment of time and place for training was vested in them, decided that the training should take place at Oxford.

After considerable correspondence and discussion, however, Woodstock was decided upon, but it proved so inconvenient that Oxford was selected for the assembly of the regiment in 1853. The colonel pointed out to the Deputy Lieutenants that, even with an establishment of only 481 men, sufficient billets were not to be obtained in Woodstock, and in consequence of this 'forty men were domiciled at a village $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant, and eighty men at villages $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant, and in the town itself there were numerous instances of three or four men being compelled to sleep in one bed.'

The ballot had now been suspended, and the establishment for the county being fixed by the Secretary of State at 481 men, the Deputy Lieutenants proceeded to apportion the number of men to be raised in the several subdivisions as follows :—

Bampton	48
Banbury	56
Chadlington	46
Henley	38
Oxford	125
Ploughley	44
Watlington	60
Wootton	64
Total	481

The men were to be raised by voluntary enrolment for a period of five years, and by September 30 461 had come forward. By October 4 twelve more men had been enrolled at Watlington, raising the total to 473, and the Deputy Lieutenants then passed the following resolution, that 'it appearing that there are personal servants of some of the officers and others (to a number exceeding that in requisition) ready upon the first opportunity to be attested and enrolled, it is resolved that the Regiment be considered as complete in respect of the Privates, and be reported to the Government as such.'

The regiment accordingly assembled on October 21 for training, as described by Colonel Crowder.

In January, 1853, by an order in Council the establishment of the Oxfordshire Militia was raised to 773, and the Secretary of State directed that the additional 292 men should be enrolled with all possible speed. The Deputy Lieutenants met, and finding that with a few vacancies caused by death, &c., 300 men would be required, apportioned the number to be raised in each subdivision. Of this number 222 men were enlisted, and it would appear therefore that the regiment when called out in September, 1853, was short of its established strength by seventy-eight men.

During the time that the local or supplementary Militia battalions existed store rooms for their arms &c. had been hired in the several divisions of the county by the colonels commanding, and a rent for the same of £30 a year had been paid out of the county fund. One of the bills sent in for payment by 'John Fane, Esq., Commanding Officer of the

South Regiment of Local Militia,' laid before a Lieutenancy meeting on April 23, 1811, and ordered to be paid out of the county rates, may be here given as an example:—

Rent to Mr. Waller for store room to June 14,			
1810	£20	0	0
Half a year to ditto for a lumber room at £12			
to December 14, 1810	6	0	0
J. Hart, for rent of a room for gunpowder	2	0	0
Paid removing stores to the new room	2	0	0
	£30	0	0

In like manner a store had hitherto been hired in Oxford for the regular Militia, but now that the regiment was being organized upon a new footing it became evident that this was quite inadequate.

At a meeting of the Lieutenancy held on March 21, 1853, the clerk laid before the magistrates 'a letter from Viscount Palmerston, Secretary of State for the Home Department, to the Lord Lieutenant, pointing out that the 106th section of the Act 42 Geo. III. c. 90, empowers a general meeting of the Lieutenancy for any county to order and direct a convenient and proper place to be provided for the custody of the arms and other stores of Militia regiments,' whereupon the meeting 'resolved unanimously that Oxford, the county town, is the proper locality for the armoury of the Militia.'

After considerable discussion and negotiation it was decided that the piece of ground on the west side of the Castle Mount was the best site for the building, and a plan and estimate were ordered to be prepared. Further delay occurred, as it proved to be necessary to provide accommodation for six staff sergeants as well as the sergeant-major, and this entailed an addition to the building. In 1855, however, the building was completed at a cost of something over £4,000, and occupied just before the regiment left for Corfu.

This armoury is the one in the New Road, which was abandoned in 1876, when the arms and stores were removed to the barracks at Cowley, and it has since that time been handed over to the County Police and used as their headquarters in Oxford.

1853.

The training of this year took place at Oxford in September under improved conditions. The Permanent Staff was up to its full strength, and the Battalion raised to eight companies—773 men. The drill instructors came from the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and they made themselves so popular with the men that for years afterwards many of the Oxfordshire volunteered to join that Regiment.

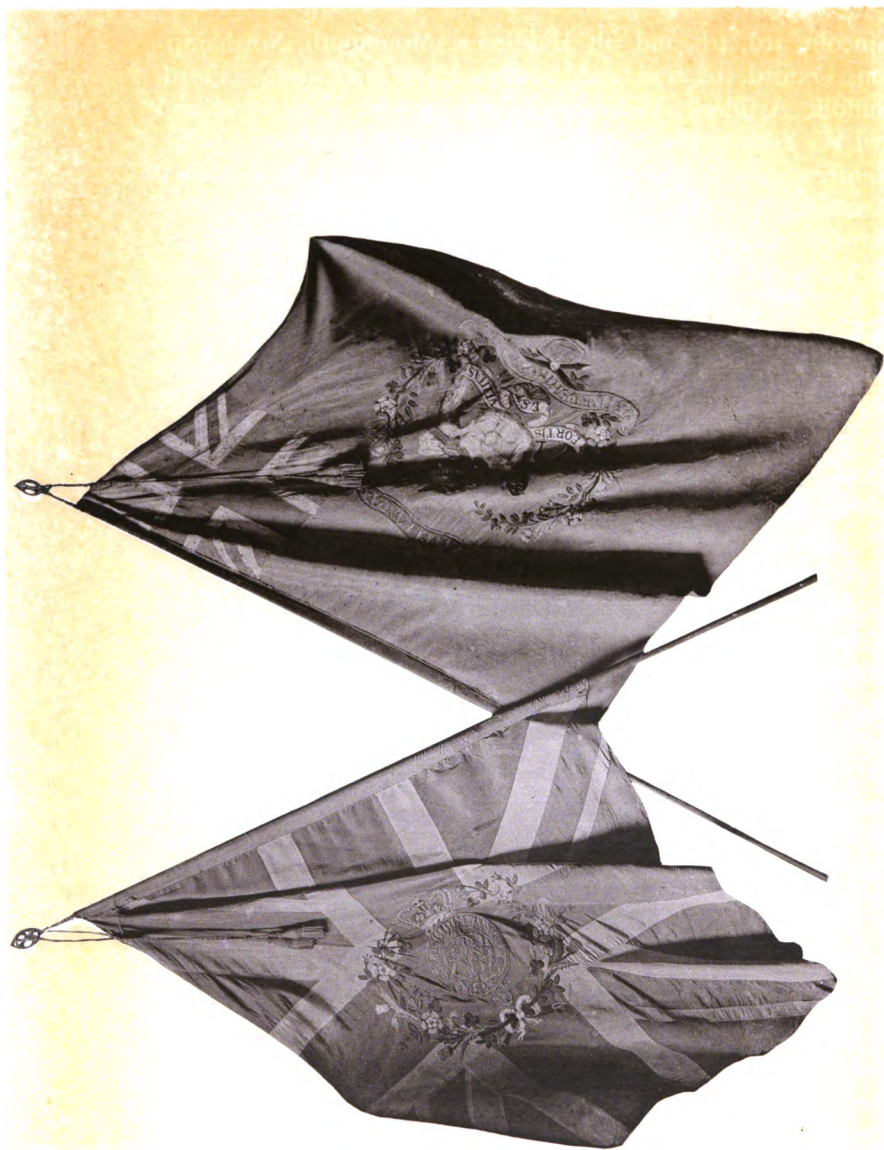
The names of the following officers appear in the *June Army List* of 1853:—

Col. C. O. Bowles.	Lieut. W. W. Holloway.
Lieut.-Col. J. W. Fane.	„ W. W. M. Dewar.
Major A. M. Storer.	„ W. H. Jones.
Capt. A. S. Fane.	„ F. M. Eden.
„ A. M. Matthews.	„ T. N. Harrison.
„ T. O. Papon.	Ensign J. J. Ireland.
„ F. C. F. Turvile.	„ Spencer Field.
„ H. E. F. Lambert.	„ A. S. Birch.
„ B. Williams.	Adj. G. Cuming, Capt.
„ E. Hobhouse.	Surgeon H. T. T. Palmer.
Capt. Hon. P. Barrington.	Assist.-Surg. J. J. Ireland, Ensign.

1854-5-6.

Early in December, 1854, the regiment was again embodied for permanent service, officers and men having volunteered for service 'wherever Her Majesty may be pleased to send them.'

The Crimean War had broken out and all available troops had been sent abroad. It is probably not generally known how many Militia regiments responded to the call for reinforcements. By a parliamentary return issued in 1869 it may be seen that no fewer than thirty-four English, four Scotch, and thirteen Irish volunteered for foreign service, though they were not all accepted. It may be interesting to record here their names. The English were the Berks, Bucks, Brecknock, Cambridge, Cornwall, Devon Miners, Devon Artillery, South Devon, Denbigh, Dorset, Essex Rifles, West Essex, East Kent, Kent Artillery, 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 6th Lancashire, South



COLOURS PRESENTED MAY, 1855, AND CARRIED TILL 1883

Lincoln, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Middlesex, Monmouth, Northampton, Oxford, 1st and 2nd Somerset, 1st and 2nd Stafford, Suffolk Artillery, Wiltshire, Worcester, N. York, 2nd and 3rd W. York. The Scotch corps were the Dumfries, Forfar, Renfrew, and Stirling. The Irish were the Antrim Rifles, Armagh, N. Cork, S. Cork, S. Devon, Dublin City, Fermanagh, Limerick City, Longford, S. Mayo, Roscommon, S. Tipperary, and W. Meath.

An Act of Parliament had been passed on December 23, 1854, entitled 'An Act to enable Her Majesty to accept the services of the Militia out of the United Kingdom for the vigorous prosecution of the War.' The preamble of the Act states that 'Whereas it is important that effectual measures should be adopted for the vigorous prosecution of the war, and it is therefore expedient that Her Majesty should be empowered to accept any offers of a proportion of the Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, Drummers, and Private Men of the Militia of the United Kingdom for such extended service as hereinafter mentioned: Be it therefore enacted,' &c. The proportion of officers and men was fixed at 'three-fourths of the actual establishment of any Regiment, Battalion, or Corps of any such Militia, as may make a voluntary offer, duly certified by their respective Commanding Officers, so to extend their services,' and the period of service was to be five years, with a grant of 'such Bounty as shall from time to time be fixed by the Secretary at War to all Non-commissioned Officers and Men.'

The regiment assembled at Oxford on December 4, 1854, and shortly afterwards proceeded to Portsmouth for garrison duty, where on May 24, 1855, new colours were presented to the battalion, the old ones being afterwards deposited in the County Hall at Oxford. These new colours, worked by the ladies of Oxfordshire, were certainly a very handsome specimen of embroidery. A beautiful silver snuff-box was also presented to the Mess at the same time. It bears the following inscription:—'Presented, with Colors, to the Regiment by the Ladies of Oxfordshire, May 24, 1855.' Above is engraved the old regimental number 51, surrounded by a scroll bearing the motto 'Fortis est Veritas.'

Shortly after this the Oxfordshire Militia proceeded to Corfu, and in that delightful quarter there ensued for a year or more some of its most pleasant experience of permanent service.

Sir John Young was the Lord High Commissioner. Major-General Macintosh commanded the troops, and Lieut.-Colonel Finucane acted as Brigade Major. The head of the Medical Department was one James Barry, a little person whose peculiar voice and manner elicited much criticism, and who, after death, was discovered to be a woman. Many stories were afterwards told of her origin and pluck, but it is doubtful if it was ever clearly ascertained who she was. She was a vegetarian, exceedingly hospitable, and gave excellent dinners.

At this time the troops of the Line had all been sent to the Crimea, and the four Militia Regiments quartered in Corfu were the Berkshire, 3rd Middlesex, Oxfordshire, and Wiltshire, while the 1st Staffordshire were down in the Islands. The Wiltshire, under Lord Methuen, was perhaps the smartest Militia Regiment in the Service.

The Oxfordshire were quartered in the Citadel, and to them Corfu proved a perfect paradise, combining as it did its own charm of scenery and amusement with facilities for sport afforded by the adjacent coast of Albania, where large game, such as wild boar and roe deer, and small game, such as woodcock, was plentiful.

The Regiment returned to England after about a year's service, and was disembodied on July 15, 1856.

As Col. Crowder did not join the regiment until 1857, it is obvious that his account of it up to that date is only written from hearsay.

He had however some personal knowledge of Corfu during 1855, and of the extraordinary person called Dr. Barry, having stayed there as the guest of some of the officers of the regiment. Capt. the Hon. A. S. A. Annesley (who afterwards commanded for many years), Capt. W. W. M. Dewar, and Lieut. F. N. Harrison had obtained leave of absence, and paid a flying visit to the Crimea. At Syra they fell in with Crowder, who was then on one of his many expeditions in those parts, and he accompanied them back to Corfu, where he stayed for some time. The friendship thus initiated with the officers led to his eventually joining the regiment on its return home.

It was in June, 1855, that the regiment left Portsmouth in two sailing transports, and after a fairly good voyage, with no

particular incident worth recording, except the one which is described further on by Colonel Annesley, duly arrived at Corfu on July 19, and was quartered in the Citadel, where it remained until May of the next year. The Wiltshire Militia was already at Corfu and the Staffordshire in the lower islands. The Berkshire and 3rd Middlesex arrived subsequently, in October.

The *Army List* of September, 1855, gives the names of the officers of the regiment as follows :—

Col. Charles G. Bowles.

Lieut.-Col. John W. Fane.

Major Anthony M. Storer.

Capt. A. M. Matthews.

„ Francis F. Turville.

„ H. E. F. Lambert.

„ Benjamin Williams.

„ Hon. Percy Barrington (late Rifle Brigade).

„ W. W. M. Dewar.

„ Hon. A. S. A. Annesley (late 16th Lancers).

„ William W. Holloway.

Lieut. Frederick M. Eden.

„ E. C. S. Cole.

„ Edward Slater Harrison.

„ Charles E. Crawley.

„ William F. Raitt (late 96th Foot).

„ William C. B. Constable.

„ Nicholas Gifford.

„ Thomas F. Bulkeley.

Ensign Charles G. Garstin.

„ Frederick W. Moore.

„ Edmond Wigley Severne.

„ Lewis Trelawney Clark (late 21st Foot).

„ Edward C. Brown.

„ Frederick W. Aston.

„ Richard B. Austin.

Adjutant George Cuming (late Capt. 71st Foot).

Quartermaster W. N. Ralph (late Capt. 2nd Foot).

Surgeon R. J. Hansard.

Assist.-Surgeon Robert G. Watts.

Col. Bowles however did not go out to Corfu, the regiment while there being commanded by Lieut.-Col. Fane.

Col. the Hon. S. Annesley, then a captain in the regiment and now its Honorary Colonel, has contributed the following account of a somewhat ludicrous incident which occurred during the voyage, and might have had a tragic result :—

‘We left Portsmouth in two sailing vessels, half the regiment with the head-quarters in one, and the remainder in the other. We had lovely weather in the Bay of Biscay, and one day a boat was lowered down that we might go out and see if we could shoot something. One of the officers shot a Mother Carey’s chicken, which was considered very unlucky by the crew, and so it proved to be.

‘After being becalmed for some days off the coast of Africa the captain was asked if he would allow us to land, as the weather was so fine, and he consented to do so.

‘A boat was lowered, and the captain came with us.

‘The party consisted of Major Matthews and his wife, Captains Annesley, Dewar, and Slater Harrison, Messrs. Severne and Garstein. We all had guns and revolvers, and as we neared the land (Cape Spartel) we found difficulty in landing on account of the surf. As we got close to the land we all pulled hard to get in with the waves, but the boat was upset and we had to wade on shore. We afterwards went back to find our guns and revolvers, which we eventually succeeded in doing, but as this was before the days of breech-loaders, some of our powder got damp. The captain said he would go back and bring us dry clothes, which he started to do.

‘The Arabs then came down upon us and we were taken up to their mud huts, but we managed to send a messenger to our consul at Tangiers (Drummond Hay), and took it in turn to sing and amuse them, as we did not like their looks.

‘About 2 a.m. the next morning a messenger arrived from the consul, and during the day we were marched by an escort of Moorish lancers into Tangiers, about ten miles. It turned out that by our landing we had broken the quarantine laws, and we had to remain in Tangiers about ten days, when a steamer took us over to Gibraltar. Here we found our transport, but she had arrived rather like a wreck.

'When the Captain left us to bring back dry clothes a storm came on, and he was driven out to sea for two days. The transport, too, was obliged to weigh anchor and tried to reach Gibraltar, where she was eventually towed. The Captain was also picked up and brought there.'

This adventure must have proved for all concerned, especially Mrs. Matthews, a very unpleasant one; and the moral would seem to be—stick to the ship and do not shoot Mother Carey's chickens.

Nothing very startling appears to have occurred during the time at Corfu, though there was a nasty outbreak of cholera in November, during which the Berkshire lost fifty men. The guards and picquets must have been heavy, for upwards of 100 officers and men were daily detailed. One example may be taken from the Brigade Order Book, dated January 2, 1856:—

For Guard : Officers	2	For Piquet	—
Serjeants	11	" "	2
Corporals	4	" "	3
Lance-Corporals	10		
Gunners	4		
Drummer	1	" "	1
Privates	103	" "	16
Total	135		22

Only one event occurred to 'mar the harmony of the proceedings,' and that was a riot which took place on December 15 and 16, 1855.

The row appears to have originated in the Middlesex Militia calling the men of the Wiltshire, Berkshire, and Oxfordshire 'opprobrious names,' which resulted in a free fight.

The Oxfordshire Militiamen, however, managed to keep out of the quarrel, and took little or no part in it.

For this behaviour they gained praise from the General commanding. In a General Order dated Corfu, December 29, 1855 (after a Court of Inquiry had been held), the Major-General commanding said that 'It is with feelings of pain and surprise that he is called upon to notice a most discreditable and disgraceful disturbance which had taken place.' He entered at length into the whole matter, and, in course of his

remarks, expressed the following opinion respecting the behaviour of the Oxfordshire men—‘that, although the insulting epithets already alluded to as having been made use of were applied as well to the Oxfordshire as to the Berkshire and Wiltshire, that Corps took no part in the disturbance, but sensibly treated such folly with the contempt it deserved.’ The Major-General considers this circumstance as ‘highly creditable to that Corps, and speaks much in favour of its discipline and soldier-like feeling.’

While at Corfu an especially close friendship existed between the Oxfordshire and Wiltshire Regiments (the latter under Lord Methuen), a friendship which lasted for many years afterwards¹.

The following extract from a book written by a Wiltshire officer may be quoted in proof. He writes :—‘We welcomed that day (July 19) into garrison a regiment with which we ever remained fast friends, and from whom we parted with mutual regret, and whose conduct, whether in quarters or the drill ground, stamped them as one of the most deserving of those Regiments of Militia who served Her Majesty in her need at home and abroad.’

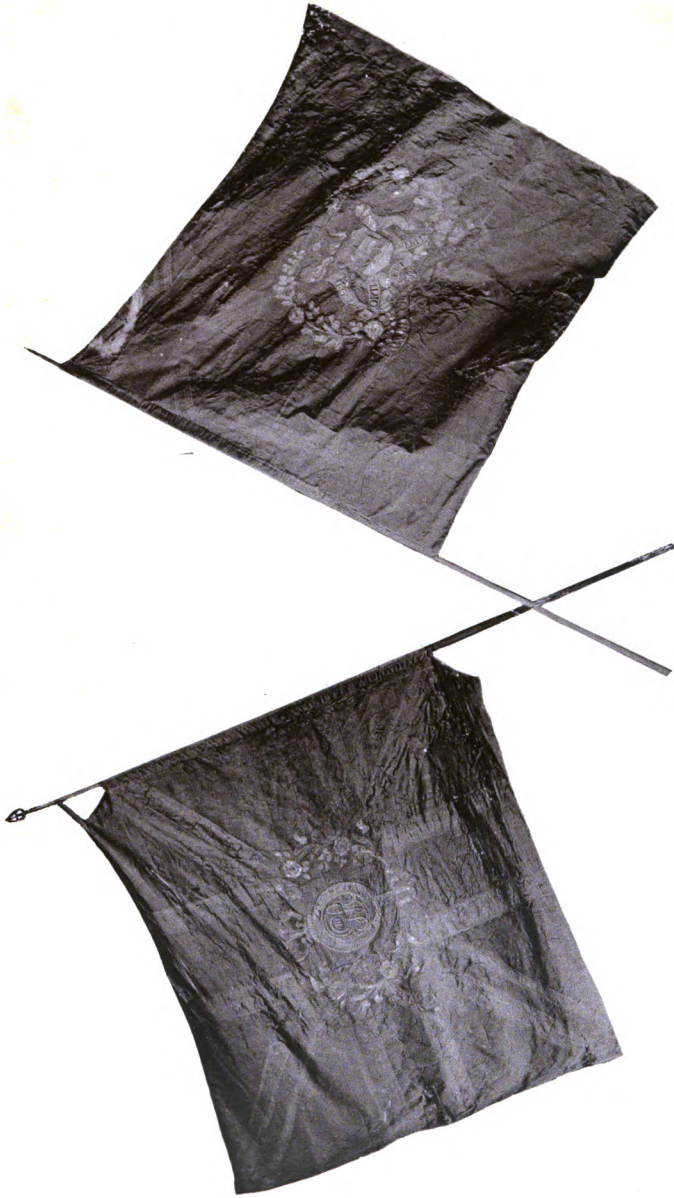
As already stated, the regiment was disembodied at Oxford on July 15, 1856, by the Queen’s Warrant, which expressed Her Majesty’s desire ‘to take the first opportunity of permitting the officers, non-commissioned officers and men who have voluntarily undertaken the obligation of military service, to return to their homes.’ The Queen also expressed the high sense she entertained of the zeal and spirit which the regiment had manifested, and ordered that in future the word ‘Mediterranean’ should be inscribed upon the colours. A similar decoration was granted to nine other Militia Regiments who had been on garrison duty during the same period.

The Queen’s pleasure was conveyed in the following General Order :—

‘HORSE GUARDS, 9th June, 1856.

‘The Militia forces having been directed to be disembodied, the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, previously to their

¹ The second Baron, who died 1891. His son, the present Baron, is Lieutenant-General Paul Sanford Methuen, K.C.V.O., C.B., C.M.G.



OLD COLOURS, CARRIED FROM FORMATION OF REGIMENT TILL 1855

To face p. 66

return to their homes, desires to offer to the officers, non-commissioned officers and men, his best acknowledgements for the zeal and discipline which they have shown during the whole period of their service. They have not only performed every duty which fell to their share with the cheerful obedience of good soldiers, but they have in large numbers gallantly volunteered into the Line at the most critical period of the war, and, by thus reinforcing the British Army before Sebastopol, have essentially contributed to its success.'

Several regiments volunteered their services for garrisons in the Mediterranean, and the offer of ten regiments was accepted, thereby liberating an equal number of Regiments of the Line to proceed to the Crimea.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to mark her sense of these valuable services by signifying her commands, through the Secretary of State for War, that the following Militia Regiments which volunteered their services abroad be permitted to wear the word 'Mediterranean' on their colours, viz.:—

Royal Berkshire.
 East Kent.
 1st Royal Lancashire.
 3rd Do.
 3rd Royal Westminster—Middlesex.
 Northamptonshire.
 Oxfordshire.
 1st King's Own—Staffordshire.
 Royal Wiltshire.
 2nd West Yorkshire.

1857-60.

In consequence of the Indian Mutiny breaking out, the Oxfordshire Militia were again embodied for two years and a half. On this occasion eighteen Corps volunteered for service in India:—the Antrim Rifles, Armagh, North Cork, Donegal Artillery, Dumfries, Lancashire Artillery, Leicestershire, Londonderry, 4th and 5th Middlesex, Oxfordshire, Pembrokeshire Artillery, Roscommon, Sligo, Stirling, Tipperary Artillery

and Infantry, and 1st Tower Hamlets. Ten of these battalions were also among those who had volunteered in a similar manner for the Crimean War.

The battalion assembled at Oxford on Sept. 18, 1857, and moved to Woolwich on Oct. 13, where it was quartered in the Artillery Barracks. Here such a friendship sprang up between the Artillery and themselves that the Militia officers were not only made honorary members of the Royal Artillery Mess, but were permitted to invite guests to their balls.

Sir Fenwick Williams, the hero of Kars, was in command, with Christopher Teesdale as his A.D.C.

Various changes took place at this time. The distinguishing badges of the flank companies, the grenade and bugle, denoting the grenadiers and light company, were done away with. The old fire-locks were also superseded by the Enfield rifle.

During the winter of 1857 the regiment gave no less than 130 volunteers to the Line.

The East Kent Militia arrived in Woolwich on Nov. 16, and the Oxfordshire were broken up, three companies under Major Storer being sent on detachment to Deptford, and two under Captain Lambert to Tilbury Fort. It was my lot to be at Tilbury together with Gifford and Severne.

Capt. Lambert's health broke down, and he was superseded by Capt. Holloway, under whom the detachment remained a very happy family.

The Commandant at Tilbury was Capt. Kelly, an octogenarian, who had fought at Aboukir, and had held his position here some forty years. He and his wife were very kind, courteous, and as old-fashioned as their furniture.

It may be of interest to state further, with regard to this fine old soldier, that his death was announced in the *Cheltenham Free Press* of July, 1863, as having occurred on June 27 of that year at the age of eighty-seven. A long account of his distinguished services were given in that paper (too long to be enumerated here), and he appears to have been as unfortunate as he was brave, for he was sent to the West Indies just before the outbreak of the Peninsular War, and had no opportunity of sharing in the glories and promotions which fell to the lot of his more fortunate comrades during that campaign and the battle of Waterloo. His career from 1810,

when he became a Captain, was so slow that it was twenty years before he attained the rank of Major. He was Commandant of Tilbury Fort for forty-six years, eventually retiring with the rank of Major-General and a good service pension, which he well deserved.

Detachments arrived periodically at the Fort, awaiting embarkation for India, and one night some of the 95th nearly burnt the barrack down, but fortunately did not quite succeed. The detachment was relieved by the East Kent on Feb. 2, 1858, a memorable day, on account of the embarkation at Gravesend of the Princess Royal as bride, with her husband Prince Frederick William of Prussia. The East Kent and Oxfordshire Companies assisted to line the streets, the Oxfordshire detachment returning in the evening to Woolwich.

The regiment was now reunited, and the Officers' Mess established under the superintendence of William Pye, an old 12th Lancer.

This fine old man continued as Messman for eighteen years until 1876, when age and infirmity compelled him to retire. He went to live (and eventually die) on a small farm near Farnham, where many of the officers used to pay the old man and his wife a visit, when training at Aldershot.

The Officers' Mess at this period was evidently carefully managed, and this fact is illustrated by a printed copy of the regulations in force. It is headed thus:—

OXFORDSHIRE MILITIA.

At a Mess Meeting, held at Woolwich on the twenty-eighth day of October, 1857, by order of the Colonel commanding the Oxfordshire Militia, the following Rules for the regulation of the above Corps were framed and agreed to:—

Then follow the rules, twenty-two in number, and they appear so wise and conducive to good order and regularity that, in the event of any future embodiment, the battalion could not do better than re-adopt them.

The dress of officers at Mess was ordered, under rule 2, to be as follows:—Shell Jacket thrown open, Buff Waistcoat with Regimental Buttons, Black Neckcloth and Regimental Trowsers. Officers, however, who had White Waistcoats might wear them with the Regimental Buttons. Under rule 3—All soldier servants attending at Mess were to appear either in

the Regimental Livery [viz. Blue Coat with a plain Gilt Button, Buff Waistcoat with a similar Button, Oxford Mixture Trowsers, White Neckcloth and thin Shoes], or in the Livery of their respective masters.

An Officers' Tandem Club existed at this time, and the rules, of which the following is a copy, were rather quaint :—

I. The Entrance to the Tandem Club to be Nothing; and the Annual Subscription is, on no account, to exceed the Entrance.

II. That the Club be limited to any amount of eligible members.

III. That the Committee consist of the President.

IV. That the Committee have power to do what it likes, and that the members have the same privilege.

V. That, on the first Monday of every month, the Club drive to some place for Dinner.

VI. That, on the days specified in rule 5, each member be authorized to bring one friend; such friend, however, to pay for himself.

DRIVING RULES.

I. That no cart be permitted to pass another, unless the latter be standing still, or permission has been obtained.

II. The general pace not to exceed ten miles an hour.

III. The order of starting to be arranged by lot.

IV. The starting point to be the South Arch, Royal Artillery Barracks.

The time at Woolwich, with much hospitality from the Artillery and Marines, was very pleasant. The Dock Yard Guard proved an amusing combination of corps, being usually furnished by the Marines, East Kent, and Oxfordshire. In June, however, the delights of Woolwich were rudely cut short by an order to move to Aldershot. The farewell dinner given on the 12th by the Artillery was a thing to be remembered, Col. Fane being carried home on the limber of a gun carriage in triumph, escorted by many Artillery Officers.

Aldershot proved rather a contrast to the luxurious life at a Capua like Woolwich. On a fearfully hot day the regiment marched from Ash Station to Cove Common, and there pitched camp close to the group of fir trees on the high road to Farnborough¹.

¹ Now known as Swan Inn Plateau.

It was attached to a brigade commanded by Major-General Hon. A. Spencer, and remained under him during the year it was quartered at Aldershot. This brigade under canvas was probably, with the exception of the camp at Chobham in 1853, one of the first encampments of the kind since the early part of the century.

The regiments encamped were the 60th, 2nd, 5th, East Kent, Stirlingshire, and 2nd Cheshire Militias, and this brigade remained under canvas until July 10th, taking part in many Long Valley field-days.

At that time Her Majesty and the Prince Consort were very fond of visiting the Pavilion at Aldershot, and on one occasion, July 6, after a large field-day, the Queen honoured the Oxfordshire camp by a personal visit, inspecting the hospital and kitchen as well as some of the officers' tents, finally entering one of the men's tents in No. 2 company. She expressed to the Colonel great approval of what she had seen.

On the following day the whole Division was formed up along the Hog's Back, lining the road as Her Majesty drove past. There were some 12,000 men under arms. On striking camp the regiment proceeded into huts in G. and H. lines South Camp, and there remained, in Maj.-General Spencer's brigade for more than a year, until August 1859. At this time Lieut.-General Knollys commanded the Division, the Brigade-Major being Major St. M. Nugent, with Capt. Oldfield of the 15th as A.D.C.

The 9th regiment, under Lt.-Col. Bethune, in the same brigade, were the particular friends of the Oxfordshire, a great alliance existing between the two Colonels. An old friendship also existed with the B. troop of Horse Artillery, who had moved from Woolwich at the same date.

At this time Capt. Holloway undertook the management of a camp theatre and got together a very useful amateur corps. A copy of one of the playbills may be amusing :—

THEATRE ROYAL.

South Camp, Aldershot.

By permission of Lieut.-General Knollys, Commanding.

On Tuesday, May 17th, 1859.

The last night under the present management, for the benefit of Mr. Allen (Prompter) and Mr. Tucker (Property-man), whose zeal and industry have mainly contributed to the success of the previous performances.

To commence with a Comedy in 3 Acts,

Plot and Passion.

Fouché (Duke of Otranto, Minister of Police)	Capt. C. CASTLE, East Kent Militia.
M. Demaret (Head of the Secret Department of Police)	Capt. M. CREAGH, 4th Dragoon Guards.
Marquis de Cevennes (a Legitimist)	Lieut. CROWDER, Oxfordshire Militia.
Berthier (Prince of Neuchatel, Grand Chamberlain)	Capt. OLDFIELD, A.D.C.
De Neuville (Secretary to De Cevennes)	Capt. HOLLOWAY, Oxfordshire Militia.
Grisboulle (subordinate of Demaret)	Ensign TOWNSHEND, Oxfordshire Militia.
Madame de Fontagnes	Miss S. GRAHAM.
Cecile (her maid)	Miss BOOTH.

To conclude with the laughable Farce,

A Kiss in the Dark.

Mr. Selem Pettibone	Capt. ASTON, Oxfordshire Militia.
Frank Fathom	Lieut. DE WINTON, Royal Horse Artillery.
Mrs. Pettibone	Miss BOOTH.
Mary	Miss L. GRAHAM.
Unknown Female	Mrs. SEYMOUR.

Doors open at 8.30. Performance to commence at 9 o'clock precisely.

Admission—Reserved Seats, 2s. 6d. Non-Com. officers and men, 6d.

The Band of the East Kent Militia will attend, by permission of Lieut.-Col. Dering.

Costumier, Mr. Nathan, Tichbourne Street.

Perruquier, Mr. Wilson, Strand.

Acting and Stage Manager, W. W. Holloway, Paymaster, Oxfordshire Militia.

Vivat Regina.

In August the Colonel sent me (Col. Crowder) to Hythe to qualify as Instructor of Musketry, a duty much to my taste. The Oxfordshire used the Caesar's Camp range, and the result of the Army

shooting for 1859 was that the Oxfordshire Militia stood 44th in a list of 83. The musketry practice of the year engrossed the whole of my attention, and no place could have been more convenient for drill and practice than our position at Aldershot. Ensign C. Rivers Bulkeley ultimately became Assistant Instructor.

The regiment left Aldershot on August 2 for Dover, the left wing, under Major Storer, being quartered for a few days at Shorncliffe, until the Donegal Militia could move and it could be all together on the Western Heights. Here was found a very strong dépôt of the 32nd Light Infantry, of Lucknow fame, together with some old friends, including Sam Lawrence, V.C. The brigade was commanded by Major-General Crawford, with Major Barnard of the Grenadier Guards as Brigade-Major. Ultimately the Wiltshire Militia, who had been quartered at Corfu with the Oxfordshire, also took up their quarters at Dover.

On August 27 the Head Quarters of the 32nd, some 300 strong, arrived in Dover from India, and were received with great honour. The Oxfordshire band played them up to the Western Heights, where the battalions remained on the most friendly terms.

Dover proved a very pleasant quarter, with much hospitality shown to the Militia together with many theatricals and other amusements. Early, however, in 1860 orders arrived for disembodiment.

The regiment again gave many volunteers to the regular forces, and especially to the Guards. With great regret the order to move to Oxford was carried out on Feb. 21, and disembodiment followed on the 28th.

On that evening a great dinner took place at the Mitre Hotel, the special object being to present to the well beloved Adjutant Capt. Cuming a piece of plate as a testimony of affection on the part of the officers.

Embodiment from Sept. 18th, 1857, to Feb. 28th, 1860.

List of officers taken from Army Lists :—

November, 1857.

Col. C. O. Bowles.

Lieut.-Col. J. W. Fane.

Major A. M. Storer.

Capt. A. M. Matthews.

„ F. F. Turville.

„ H. E. F. Lambert.

Capt. W. W. M. Dewar.
„ Hon. A. S. A. Annesley.
„ W. W. Holloway.
„ E. C. S. Cole.
„ E. S. Harrison.
Lieut. W. F. Raitt.
„ W. C. B. Constable.
„ N. Gifford.
„ T. F. Bulkeley.
„ E. W. Severne.
„ E. C. Browne.
„ F. W. Aston.
„ H. Moody.
Ensign R. B. Austin.
„ H. O. Lloyd.
„ Russell England.
„ E. H. Noyes.
„ T. M. Crowder.
Paymaster H. L. Carter.
Adjutant Capt. G. Cuming.
Quartermaster W. N. Ralph.
Surgeon R. J. Hansard.
Assist.-Surgeon R. G. Watts.

March, 1860.

Col. C. O. Bowles.
Lieut.-Col. J. W. Fane.
Major A. M. Storer.
Capt. A. M. Matthews.
„ Hon. A. S. A. Annesley.
„ N. Gifford.
„ T. F. Bulkeley.
„ E. W. Severne.
„ F. W. Aston.
„ H. Moody.
„ T. M. Crowder.
Lieut. E. T. Arney.
„ S. Perry.
„ H. Buchanan.

Lieut. W. E. Phillips.
„ A. M. Harte (late East Yorkshire Militia).
„ C. Legge (late Durham Militia).
„ E. Ramsay.
„ C. R. Bulkeley.
Ensign H. F. O. Golding.
„ W. Hackett.
„ H. A. Clery.
„ T. R. Brown.
„ G. M. Buckle.
„ C. F. King.
Paymaster W. W. Holloway.
Instr. of Musketry Capt. T. M. Crowder.
Adjutant Capt. G. Cuming.
Quartermaster J. Meadows.
Surgeon R. J. Hansard.
Assist.-Surgeon R. G. Watts.

1861-3.

After the disembodiment the regiment did not again come out for training until May 8, 1862, when it assembled at Oxford. This was the last appearance of Captain Cuming, as Adjutant, and he was assisted during the training by Lieut. C. R. Bulkeley.

Captain J. F. Sparke, late of the 84th Regiment, was appointed Adjutant on the retirement of Captain Cuming, and on April 24, 1863, the regiment again trained at Oxford.

Colonel Crowder writes :—

During these years I was serving in New Brunswick, after the 'Trent affair,' under the Hon. A. H. Gordon as his Adjutant-General of Militia, but, on returning to England in 1864, I was present during the last half of the training.

1864.

The regiment assembled on April 21, making the Clarendon Hotel its Head-quarters, the men being billeted about the city. The drill field was on the West of the Woodstock Road, and there eight companies of some thirty-eight files paraded.

The Inspection by Col. Pipon took place on May 9. The weather

was so bad that drill was impossible, and some companies were inspected in the Cloisters of Colleges and elsewhere. After the examination of the books in the Orderly Room, a large luncheon party was given at the Clarendon to many University dignitaries and ladies. The regiment was dismissed on May 11.

The new officers who had joined since the embodiment were Lieuts. J. R. Auldjo, W. A. Wykeham, E. C. S. Thompson, and Conrad Dillon.

The officers present at the training were:—

Lieut.-Col. J. W. Fane.

Major A. M. Storer.

Capt. A. M. Matthews.

„ Hon. A. S. A. Annesley (late 16th Lancers).

„ F. W. Aston.

„ H. Moody.

„ T. M. Crowder.

„ E. T. Arney.

„ H. Buchanan.

Lieut. A. M. Harte.

„ C. Legge.

„ E. Ramsay.

„ C. R. Bulkeley, Instr. of Musketry.

„ W. Hackett.

„ J. R. Auldjo.

„ W. A. Wykeham.

„ E. C. S. Thompson.

„ C. A. Dillon.

Capt. and Adjutant J. F. Sparke.

Quartermaster J. Meadows.

Paymaster W. W. Holloway.

Surgeon R. J. Hansard.

Assist.-Surgeon J. Briscoe.

1865.

This year's training took place at Oxford, the men being in billets, as usual, from May 1 to 27. There were about fifty-four recruits but no new officers. It was a most festive training, so far as the officers were concerned, as there were then as undergraduates at

Christ Church, the Duke of Hamilton, Lord Harrington, and the two Darrells, who were not unwilling to dine frequently at the Mess at the Clarendon Hotel.

The University and City were also very hospitable. Dr. Lightfoot, the Vice-Chancellor, entertained the officers at dinner in Exeter College on the 24th, and Alderman Ward gave a similar entertainment on the 23rd, Mr. Venables having previously given a luncheon party to the officers.

The drill field was this time on the Banbury Road, where the young gentlemen from Christ Church, on certain occasions, varied the drills by riding hurdle races.

The Inspection took place on the 26th under Col. Hon. A. E. Hardinge, and was followed by the usual luncheon.

1866.

This year the regiment assembled again for its training at Oxford, the men in billets, from April 16 to May 12. There were three new Subalterns, including J. S. Fletcher, who now rejoined after having left at Woolwich in 1858.

The training was particularly uneventful. The regiment was allowed to drill in the newly-formed Parks, a very convenient arrangement on account of the proximity to Broad Street, where it always paraded.

The Inspection by Lord Frederick Paulet took place on May 10, and he was pleased to express his entire satisfaction. The Inspecting Officer was as usual entertained at luncheon at the Clarendon.

1867.

The training is notable as being the first occasion on which the regiment proceeded to Aldershot for the purpose.

The assembly was at Oxford on April 29, when the men remained in billets till May 2, on which day they went by special train to Aldershot.

The quarters were in L. and M. lines North Camp, and the battalion returned to Oxford on May 23, after a very dusty Field-day, and was dismissed on the 25th.

Sir James Scarlett at this time commanded the Division, and the Oxfordshire was attached to the third brigade under Sir Alfred Horsford, his Brigade-Major being Brevet-Major Evelyn Wood, V.C.¹

¹ Now General Sir H. E. Wood, V.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., Adjutant-General of the Army.

The regiments with which the Oxfordshire was specially connected were the 70th and the Royal Berks Militia. The usual interchange of dinners took place, and the 70th were also most hospitable as to breakfast and luncheon on the day of departure. On May 13 the 72nd also arrived in camp, many of their officers dining at Mess that evening. The Mess was pretty good, and old William Pye, who had been Messman during the Indian Mutiny embodiment, and who lived at Holt Pound, near Farnham, again gave his services. On returning to Oxford the officers presented him with a watch in recognition of his attention to duty now, and in old times.

The Inspection took place on May 20 and passed off satisfactorily. It was during this training that breech-loaders (Sniders) were first seen in the hands of some of the Guards. They were only converted Enfields, and they were not issued to the Militia until several years after. It was the Königrätz campaign of 1866, and the rapid success of the Prussians with their 'needle-gun,' which caused this improvement.

On May 22 the Colonel and Lieut. Brewis each provided a coach and team, and a regimental party went to the Derby.

The weather was most wild and cold, and Hermit won after several false starts in a snow storm, the betting against him being upwards of 60 to 1.

The officers present at this training were:—

Lieut.-Col. J. W. Fane.

Major A. M. Matthews.

Capt. T. M. Crowder.

„ E. T. Arney.

„ Herbert Buchanan.

„ A. M. Harte.

„ C. R. Bulkeley.

Lieut. Compton Legge.

„ J. R. Auldjo.

„ W. A. Wykeham.

„ E. C. S. Thompson.

„ Edwin Frend.

„ S. Brewis.

„ J. S. Fletcher.

Capt. and Adjutant J. F. Sparke.

Capt. and Quartermaster W. W. Holloway.

Surg.-Major R. J. Hansard.
Assist.-Surgeon J. Briscoe.

On August 20 of this year the 'Militia Reserve Act' was passed [30 and 31 Vict., c. III.] authorizing one quarter of the establishment of the Militia of the United Kingdom (or about 30,000 men) to be enlisted for five years, subject to certain qualifications as to height, chest measurement, character, &c.

The men so enlisted were to receive £1 bounty a year in addition to their ordinary Militia bounty, and they were liable to be drafted into any regiment of the regular Army in case of war or imminent danger thereof.

1868.

The training lasted from April 27 to May 23. As last year, it took place at Aldershot, the regiment of upwards of 700 men proceeding to camp on April 29 and returning to Oxford on May 21.

The Oxfordshire was again attached to the third brigade in the North Camp under Sir Alfred Horsford, and was quartered in huts in E. F. and G. lines. The line regiments in the brigade were the 51st under Col. Agg, and the 98th under Col. Peyton. The Militia Battalions were the first Surrey under Col. Evelyn, and the Royal Berks under Lord Norreys.¹

The usual interchange of hospitality took place, the 51st and 98th being especially courteous and considerate.

Majors Storer and Matthews had both resigned since last year, and the two new Field Officers were the Hon. Sydney Annesley and Major Crowder.

One unfortunate event happened on the evening of Sunday, May 3, viz. a fracas between the Oxfordshire and the 1st Surrey. It originated in some trivial dispute during the afternoon, and culminated in a row upon the parade ground between the lines of the two regiments immediately after Mess. Fortunately the officers ran out between the combatants before any serious collision had taken place, and, beyond the disgrace and trouble of the subsequent boards of inquiry, there was no serious result; in short, during the remainder of the training the men were fast friends, and the officers cemented the alliance by the usual Mess convivialities.

The Inspection by Col. Peyton of the 98th was held on May 19, when the men, for some reason, did not appear to be so steady as usual.

1869.

Oxford was again this year honoured by the presence of the regiment from May 3 to May 29, and the training is notable as being the last which was ever carried out in billets. The Recruits for some years yet, to 1876 inclusive, were billeted in the city during their preliminary drill before the rest of the regiment came out.

The general supposition was that it was ordered to remain at Oxford instead of going to Aldershot, because, in the previous year, it had lost character on account of the pugnacity displayed in the affair with the 1st Surrey. This, however, was probably far from the truth.

One new Subaltern joined, Lieut. G. T. S. Carter, of Watlington Park, but he never came out again.

The drill ground was a field off the Seven Bridges Road.

On May 17 a detachment of the Rifle Brigade passed through Oxford, and the officers were duly entertained at the Militia Mess at the Clarendon. On the following morning the Band played them out of the city.

On May 25 a Militia Brigade assembled for drill at the Duke of Bedford's seat, Woburn Abbey, whither the regiment proceeded by the L. and N. W. Railway. The brigade was composed of the Northampton, Hertford, Bedford, and Oxford Regiments, and was put through movements in the park. The officers lunched afterwards at the Abbey, and returned to Oxford in the evening.

The good feeling of the city authorities towards the Militia was evinced by a dinner given on May 19 to the officers by the Mayor, Mr. Joseph Castle, in the Council Chamber. The officers then appeared for the first time in the glory of silver lace, belts, and sashes, which had just been introduced for levees and entertainments.

On May 27 the Inspection went off satisfactorily under Col. Hogge of the Grenadier Guards, and the training ended with a very festive luncheon and dance at the Clarendon Hotel, with a supper for the Serjeants on the same evening, and a Band Concert on the following night.

Officers, *Army List*, April, 1869:—

Lieut.-Col. Comm. John W. Fane.

Major Hon. A. S. A. Annesley (late 16th Lancers).

„ Thomas M. Crowder.

Capt. Henry Moody.

„ Edward Trevor Arney.

„ Herbert Buchanan.

„ Albert Maxwell Harte.

„ Edward Ramsay.

„ Charles Rivers Bulkeley.

„ Walter Hackett.

Lieut. Compton Legge.

„ John Rose Auldjo.

„ Wenman Aubrey Wykeham.

„ Edward C. S. Tompson.

„ Edwin Frend.

„ Samuel P. Brewis.

„ John Lynch Fletcher (late Commissariat Dept.).

„ George T. S. Carter.

Instr. of Musketry Capt. C. R. Bulkeley.

Adjutant Capt. John F. A. Sparke (late 84th Foot).

Quartermaster William W. Holloway.

Surgeon R. J. Hansard.

Assist.-Surgeon John Briscoe.

NOTE.—Appointments to the rank of Ensign were suspended.

1870.

An uneventful training was carried out from May 2 to 28. The Regiment assembled at Oxford and again this year proceeded to Aldershot. There it was quartered in I and K lines, N. Camp, and this was the last training that the men were in huts for many years to come, as from 1871 to 1883 inclusive, every training henceforth was conducted under canvas.

Our special friends this year were the 12th Lancers. The immediate origin of the intimacy being the fact that they had just passed through Oxford on their way to Aldershot; the Head-quarters [a squadron] leaving the City on May 2, preceded by the Militia infantry band playing them through the High Street.

The 3rd was again the Brigade to which the Regiment was attached, now commanded by Brigadier-General Maxwell, Sir James Scarlett still commanding the Division. He honoured us by his company at dinner on May 23.

Besides the 12th Lancers the corps with which the officers were

specially connected this year were the 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade, the Royal Berks, and 3rd Middlesex Militias. The two latter were old friends, having been at Corfu with the Oxfordshire. The only events worth mentioning were an instruction drill in light infantry movements, under Col. Newdegate, on Cove Common, and a most impressive sermon delivered to the Brigade in the N. Camp Church by Rev. G. B. Gleig, the Chaplain-General, who had himself seen active service in the 85th. A very satisfactory inspection took place on May 25 under our Brigadier. On its departure for Oxford the Regiment was played to the station by the band of the 12th Lancers.

1871.

A new edition of the Field Exercise had been published, with many important changes, especially as to the position of the Company Officers and Supernumeraries, Guides and Markers, as well as simplifying the words of command. In consequence of this, during the month of March, both the Majors attended the School of Instruction at Wellington Barracks, under Lieut.-Col. Lord Hinchinbrook.

The month of training was from May 8 to June 3, and Aldershot the locale. One new officer had joined, Lieut. A. B. Cook, but the number present was extraordinarily small, only fifteen proceeding to Aldershot.

Sir Hope Grant had succeeded Sir James Scarlett in command of the Division.

The Regiment was attached to the Permanent Barracks or 2nd Brigade under General Carey, and the corps with which it was specially connected were the 2nd Battalion 17th, under Lieut.-Col. Brice, the 2nd Battalion 22nd, under Col. Anderson, the 94th under Lord John Taylour, and the Bucks Militia. Its old friends the 12th Lancers were also in the N. Camp, as well as the Royal Berks Militia.

For the first time the men were under canvas, being encamped towards the S. end of Rushmoor Bottom, the Bucks being at the N. extremity, near the Club House. The weather at first was extremely cold. For the Mess the authorities only supplied a hospital marquee and no ante-tent, and as yet, so unaccustomed were all to this new line of life, that Mr. Pye the messman was unable to provide any regular dinner until two days after arrival. Eventually that small marquee witnessed much entertainment, as all the Regiments already named dined with the officers.

It may be interesting to recall the intimacy existing between all ranks of the 2nd Battalion 17th and the Oxfordshire Militia during this training and that of 1872, and the original cause of it. When the Oxfordshire Militia were quartered in the S. Camp in 1859, it so happened that early in the morning of June 30 the 2nd Battalion 17th arrived in camp, no quarters being ready for them. They piled arms on the Brigade Parade, and the Oxfordshire only showed the ordinary courtesy of one battalion, under such circumstances, to another. But beyond this the non-commissioned officers and men made it their special duty to look to the wants of the women and children of the newly arrived corps, and it was this circumstance which particularly dwelt in the memory of the men of the 17th and caused such an amount of friendly feeling on the part of that Regiment towards the Oxfordshire as will probably last for many more years to come. Traditions in the Army, for good or evil, for friendship or enmity, sometimes survive for upwards of a century.

On arriving at Aldershot the Regiment marched without music to its camp, Major-Gen. John Douglas, commanding the Cavalry Brigade, having died that morning. His body was sent to Scotland a few days later for interment, and the enormous military procession which accompanied it from his house on the Farnham Road to the Town Station was a very impressive sight. He had served a long time in the 11th Hussars, was Lord Cardigan's Major, and afterwards commanded the Regiment. On Her Majesty's Birthday the Division paraded as usual and fired a feu de joie. Many friends came for the ceremony and stayed to luncheon.

On May 27 the Royal Bucks Militia gave a most pleasant and sociable dinner party in the Club House to some fifty officers of the 22nd, 17th, 94th, and Oxfordshire, and on the 30th the 12th Lancers were entertained in no less festive a manner by the Oxfordshire Militia.

The day appointed for the inspection under Major-Gen. Carey was a most unfortunate one. It was blowing a gale, and the spot selected for drill was on a high plateau at the edge of the Long Valley. The consequence was that no one could hear the words of command, and the men drilled very badly.

Up to this year commissions in the Militia had been signed by the Lord Lieutenant of the county, but by the Regulation of the Forces Act, 1871, he now lost this privilege, retaining only the right of appointment at first entrance to the lowest

rank. The commissions from this date were to be signed by the Queen, and the Lord Lieutenant has now only the power of recommending a candidate to the Secretary of State to fill a vacancy within thirty days of such vacancy being notified to him. If he does not do so the privilege of recommending a candidate falls to the commanding officer.

The following is a specimen of the form of commission issued up to this time:—

‘By the Most Noble John Winston Duke of Marlborough, Marquess of Blandford, Earl of Sunderland and Marlborough, Baron Spencer of Wormleighton, and Baron Churchill of Sandridge, K.G., Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the County of Oxford.

To —

I reposing special trust and confidence in your loyalty, courage, and conduct to do Her Majesty good and faithful service, by virtue of the power and authority to me given by the Queen’s Most Excellent Majesty under the Great Seal of Great Britain, as Lord Lieutenant of the said County of Oxford, and in pursuance of an Act of Parliament made and passed in the 42nd year of his late Majesty King George the Third, entitled “An Act for amending the laws relating to the Militia in England and for augmenting the Militia,” and of all subsequent Acts and other Laws now in being relating to the said Militia, Have nominated, constituted, appointed, and given Commission to, And by these presents Do nominate, constitute, appoint, and give Commission to you the said — to be Lieutenant in the Regiment of Militia of the said County of Oxford, under the command of — as Colonel thereof. And you the said — are carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of Lieutenant by exercising and well disciplining both inferior Officers and Private Militia Men of the said Regiment. And I do hereby command them to obey you as their Lieutenant. And you the said — are to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time as you shall receive from your Lieut.-Colonel Commandant or any other your Superior Officer according to the directions of the said Acts and in pursuance of the trust hereby reposed in you.

Given under my hand and seal at Blenheim Palace in the County of Oxford the — day of — in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine.’

MARLBOROUGH.

List of officers, May, 1871 :—

Lieut.-Col. John W. Fane.

Major Hon. A. S. A. Annesley (late 16th Lancers).

„ Thomas Mosley Crowder.

Capt. Edward Trevor Arney.

„ Herbert Buchanan.

„ Albert Maxwell Harte (late East Yorkshire Militia).

„ Edward Ramsay.

„ Charles Rivers Bulkeley.

„ Walter Hackett.

„ John Rose Auldjo.

„ Edward C. S. Thompson.

Lieut. Compton Legge (late Durham Militia).

„ Edwin Frend.

„ Samuel Brewis.

„ John Lynch Fletcher (late Commissariat Dept.).

„ G. T. Shaen Carter.

„ Richard W. S. Lowndes.

„ Arthur Bott Cook.

(Ensigns suspended.)

Instr. of Musketry C. R. Bulkeley, Capt.

Adj. John F. A. Sparke (late Capt. 84th Foot).

Quartermaster William W. Holloway.

Surgeon John Briscoe.

1872.

Four new officers had joined since last year, but one of them, Lieut. du Vernet, did not remain for the Training, which extended from May 6 to June 1, the Battalion assembling at Oxford and being stationed at Aldershot from May 8 to May 30.

Major-General J. W. S. Smith commanded the 2nd Brigade, to which the Oxfordshire was attached, and the camping ground was again on Rushmoor Green. The weather was extremely cold and wet; snow and rain during the first ten days culminating in a perfect deluge on May 17 and 18.

The men's lines were unfortunately on rather low ground, and the trenches which were necessary to carry off the water became so large and numerous that eventually each tent appeared to be standing on an island, and the discomfort, borne with great patience, was extreme.

The Officers' Mess was much more comfortable, a large marquee with interior lining having been hired. Henceforth a tent of this description was always used for the Mess and ante-tent, two being eventually purchased.

The Battalions with which the Oxfordshire were more closely connected were again the 2nd 17th and 2nd 22nd, and also the 100th, under the command of Lieut.-Col. the Hon. C. J. Addington. The Buckinghamshire and Hampshire Militias were also attached to the 2nd Brigade.

This was the last Training of Lieut.-Col. Fane, who had commanded the Battalion since 1852. He received his notice to quit, on account of age, on May 15, and was duly succeeded in the command by Major the Hon. A. S. A. Annesley. In true English fashion the officers entertained their old Colonel at dinner on May 27, and, with much regret and fitting honours, wished him adieu.

This Training was remarkable for the number of inspections. The day after arriving in camp the Regiment paraded for its Brigadier, Major-General Smith, and again on May 22 Sir Hope Grant ordered a parade and expressed his appreciation of its appearance in very flattering terms. The regular inspection took place on May 27, under the Brigadier, and proved extremely satisfactory.

Athletic sports for the men took place the day before the return to Oxford, under the able supervision of Capt. Bulkeley, who had himself, on a previous occasion, won the officers' foot race in the Divisional Sports.

The Battalion was played to the N. Camp Station by the bands of the 17th, 22nd, and 100th Regiments, the Bucks Militia turning out a guard of honour with the colours, the band playing 'Auld Lang Syne' as the Battalion marched past.

1873.

The Brigade Dépôt system had now been introduced under the regime of Mr. Cardwell, the Secretary of State for War.

Barracks for Dépôts were being erected in each district, but three years elapsed before those for the 42nd Brigade Dépôt were completed¹. The 42nd Dépôt was for the counties of Bucks and Oxford, the two linked line Battalions being the 52nd and 85th (the 43rd being afterwards substituted for the 85th), and the Militia

¹ Now the 43rd Regimental District.

Battalions being the Royal Bucks and Oxfordshire. The first officer in command of the Dépôt was Col. C. J. C. Mills, a dear old gentleman, who had an orderly room in the High Street, near Carfax, and wore undress uniform with details of his own design, including the red sash discarded for blue undress since 1867.

The Bucks and Oxford Militia Battalions henceforth became more closely allied, Col. Pratt of the Bucks having always done everything he could to cement the union, while the Oxford connexion with the Berks became gradually somewhat severed in consequence of the Dépôt of the latter being situated at Reading.

The Training lasted from May 12 to June 7, and Rushmoor Bottom, Aldershot, was again the camping-ground.

This was the first occasion on which the Battalion was able to proceed to Aldershot on the day after assembly, the men being only one night in billets at Oxford. There were about 160 recruits; the new officers consisted of Lieutenants Henley, Heriot, and Willan.

Sir Hope Grant still commanded the Division, and the Brigade was under Major-General Smith, the line Battalions being the 1st 1st (now 1st Royal Scots), 1st 22nd (now 1st Cheshire), and the 103rd (now 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers), with the Bucks and Hants Militias. The Berks were attached to the 3rd or N. Camp Brigade and encamped on Cove Common.

The Queen's Birthday was this year celebrated, as it ought to be, on May 24, with a parade of the Division and *feu de joie* in the Long Valley. There was a large luncheon party afterwards in the Mess, including many ladies and Col. Fane.

The sports for the men, held on June 2, were this year a joint affair with the Bucks and Hants.

The inspection by General Smith took place on June 4 and proved satisfactory.

There were some changes in officers' uniform this year. Boots and pantaloons for mounted officers were introduced as well as red patrol jackets. These were most comfortable and serviceable, but their cheapness probably condemned them, for they had a short life. Tailors are all-powerful, and after 1874 they were rarely seen for many years, until 1889, when they were re-introduced.

The march past of the battalion on the Queen's Birthday Parade, before H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, not only elicited expressions of approval from the spectators, but also from H.R.H. At the conclusion of the parade, the colonels

of the Militia battalions being assembled, the Duke addressed them, saying he was highly pleased with the appearance of their respective regiments on parade and also with their steadiness in marching. There were some corps who were better than others, but he did not like to particularize, as they had not all been under the same training. He must, however, remark that the Oxford were in excellent condition and highly efficient, and he expressed a wish that the whole of the men in the regiment should be granted an exemption from duty for the remainder of the day.

Officers, June, 1873 :—

Lieut.-Col. Hon. A. S. A. Annesley (late 16th Lancers).

Major Thomas M. Crowder.

„ Herbert Buchanan.

Capt. Edward T. Arney.

„ Charles R. Bulkeley.

„ John R. Auldjo.

„ Edward C. S. Tompson.

„ Edwin Frend.

„ Samuel R. Brewis.

„ John L. Fletcher (late Commissariat Dept.).

„ Arthur B. Cook.

Lieut. William P. Wood.

„ Frederick J. F. Fyler.

„ Arthur W. du Vernet.

„ Henry J. Seton.

„ Joseph A. Henley.

„ Frank Willan.

„ Warner J. L. Heriot.

Instr. of Musketry Capt. C. R. Bulkeley.

Adj. Capt. John F. A. Sparke (late 84th Foot).

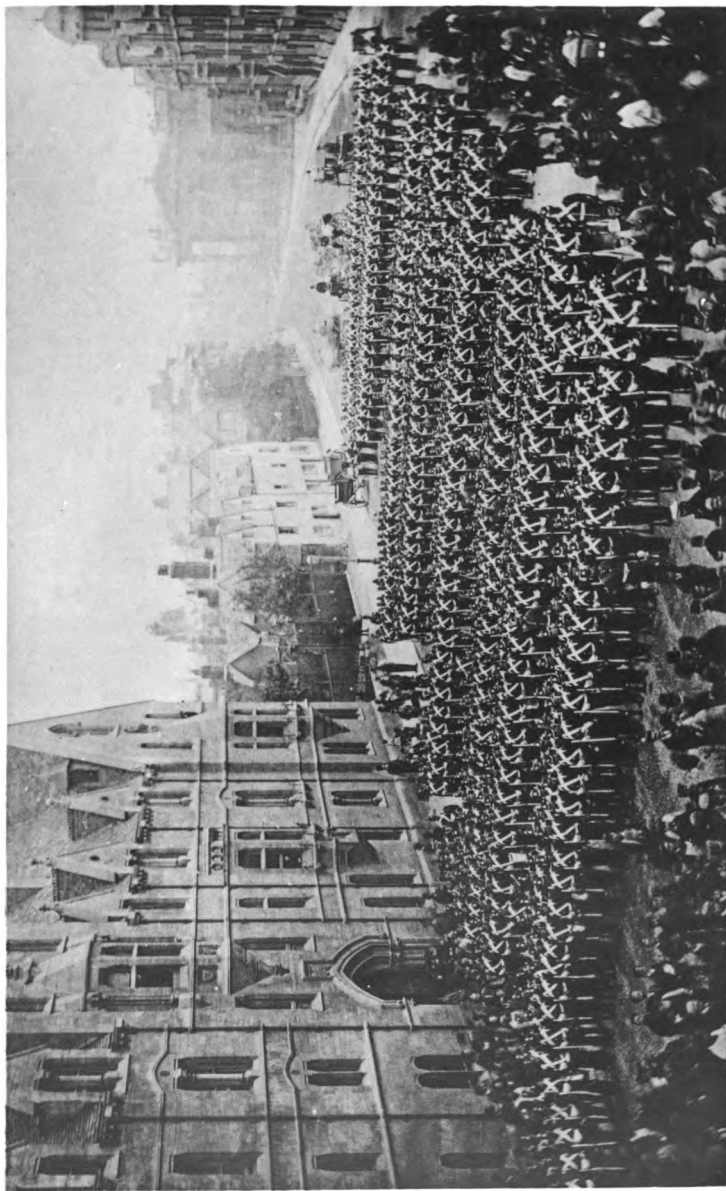
Quartermaster William W. Holloway.

Surgeon John Briscoe.

Assist.-Surgeon Patrick Kavanagh.

1874.

Autumn manœuvres had now been introduced for some years. In 1871 they had taken place in the neighbourhood of Aldershot,



THE REGIMENT IN BROAD STREET, OXFORD
1874

To face p. 88

in 1872 in Wiltshire, near and on Salisbury Plain, and in 1873 on Cannock Chase and Dartmoor.

This year again the movements were to take place near Aldershot, but earlier in the year. In consequence of this the Militia training lasted for six weeks instead of the usual twenty-seven days.

Captains Auldjo and Brewis had resigned, and the vacancies were filled up by the direct appointment as Captains of Walter Barrington and Harold Dillon (now Lord Dillon).

The father of the former had commanded a company during the Crimean War embodiment, and he himself had served in the Coldstream Guards. Dillon came from the Rifle Brigade, and his brother Conrad had been, for three years from 1864, a subaltern in the Battalion.

The system of nominations, by commanding officers, of subalterns of Militia to the Line had just been inaugurated, and for some time the colonel commanding had a nomination every year. This naturally attracted subalterns to the Militia in unusual numbers. The Militia subaltern must have served two trainings, passed certain examinations, and be under a certain age in order to qualify.

Lieut. Fyler received the first nomination after the training of 1873, and was posted to the 52nd as a lieutenant¹. Lieut. Seton was nominated in 1874 and gazetted to the 86th².

The rank of Sub-Lieutenant was also introduced into the Militia, a title which had superseded that of Ensign in the Line.

The training, which was carried out at Aldershot, lasted from May 18 to June 27. Until shortly before the manœuvres the Battalion was again attached to the 2nd Brigade under Major-General Smith, and was once more encamped on Rushmoor Bottom, with the 3rd 60th on the S. side and the 78th Highlanders near the Club House, the other line Battalions of the Brigade being the 1st 1st and the 77th (now the 2nd Battalion Middlesex Regiment).

In connexion with the coming movements there were more Militia Battalions in camp than usual, the Edmonton Rifles (now 7th King's Royal Rifles) being camped near, the Hertford and 2nd Surrey (now 3rd Royal W. Surrey) on Cove Common, and the Royal Berks in the Guards' enclosure.

To the 77th Regiment was attached the Dépôt of the 52nd, under Captain Adams, and this afforded an opportunity of commencing an

¹ He died some years afterwards of fever in India, much regretted by all who knew him.

² Now second in command of 2nd Batt. Royal Irish Rifles.

intimacy to be ultimately strengthened at Oxford. When three weeks of the training had elapsed the Aldershot Division was entirely reorganized with a view to the manœuvres.

The whole of the troops were reformed into two Divisions to be opposed to each other. The 1st Division was placed under the command of Major-General Smith, and the Oxfordshire were attached to the 3rd or Fusilier Brigade, consisting of the 2nd 21st, 1st 23rd, and 104th. The Duke of Cambridge came down on June 10 and had both Divisions out in the Long Valley. On the following day the 1st Division paraded at 5 a.m. and commenced the hardening process by marching to Sandhurst in heavy order, with tents.

It encamped for the day in a picturesque position beyond the Military College, and after cooking dinner returned to Aldershot, which was reached soon after 7 o'clock, the men marching extremely well. Ascot races then intervened, and the rival Divisions enjoyed a truce until June 19, on which day the 1st Division marched out again beyond Sandhurst. The 3rd Brigade, taking the road through Frimley, encamped at Wishmoor Bottom, not far from Broadmoor Lunatic Asylum.

The extempore mess of the Battalion was rendered so comfortable by the care of its old Messman Pye (who had gained much experience with the 12th Lancers at the Cape) that the Brigadier was glad to avail himself of it. This led to a rather amusing incident. The Brigadier, Col. Wilkinson, suggested that the Band should enliven the repast, but the sweet sounds excited the wrath of General Smith, who in hot haste despatched an A.D.C. to remind Col. Annesley that the Brigade was in front of an enemy. The Colonel screened the Brigadier and assumed the responsibility of the offence.

The next day the 1st Division retreated northwards and was attacked by the 2nd Division, which had marched out from Aldershot. After a great battle General Smith was awarded the victor's crown.

The inspection by Col. Wilkinson took place on June 23, and on the following day the Battalion experienced the hardest march of the training. The Division marched out through Farnham and Crooksbury to attack the 2nd Division somewhere near the 'Devil's Jumps.' It was a pretty fight, and the 1st Division was again adjudged victorious, returning to its camp at Aldershot the same evening. The men were rather weary, and some of the officers, especially Capt. Dillon and Lieut. Willan, were usually heavily laden with rifles and accoutrements.

The manœuvres ended on June 26 with a mighty battle in the Long Valley and a march past before the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge.

Several important changes in uniform were made this year. The old circular blocked forage cap and the tunic were discarded and the men were given loose frocks and glengarries, as well as new great-coats, the latter being much wanted. The old forage cap scroll 'Oxfordshire,' which in 1858 had superseded the number 51 (the order of precedence of the Battalion), was now abolished. The officers adopted a braided badge, which looked like a cat on telegraph wires, while for the men's glengarries a metal device was introduced representing an ox in a ford and bearing a greater resemblance to the real article than the embroidery on the officers' caps. This was also the first year that the Bandsmen appeared in red frocks and glengarries in place of the white tunics and rose-coloured caps which they had hitherto worn.

The stay of the Battalion on Rushmoor Bottom was marked by one disagreeable but at the same time amusing incident. The officers' tents were pitched very close to one of the thick copses on the west side, and valuable property began to disappear in an unaccountable manner. Colonel Annesley was the first victim, but other officers soon shared the same fate.

Matters began to look serious, and extra men were told off on police duty with strict orders to keep a sharp look-out, especially on the woods. This soon had a beneficial effect and two thieves were captured.

The first was during morning parade, when a man was seen to skulk from the wood to the tents, and was soon captured and brought into the open. He presented a most dirty and ragged appearance, and on turning his cap it was discovered that he belonged to the 93rd Highlanders, from which regiment he had been absent six weeks, living in the woods.

The next capture, which was of a more exciting nature, took place the same afternoon. The men had just been dismissed from parade when the view holloa was given. Two men had been seen creeping out of the wood near the Officers' Mess, and when discovered had bolted back again.

The whole battalion, officers and men, as well as a number of the Rifle Brigade, dashed off in chase. The copse was large and difficult to surround. One of the thieves broke cover and was headed back. He broke again, and crossing a glade into another cover was unfortunately lost. The second man was eventually discovered by a rifleman treading on him as he lay in the thick underwood. He sprang to his feet and floored the rifleman, but the view holloa was again raised and the pack soon ran him down. He stood at bay for a short time armed with a knife, but was collared, and being a civilian handed over to the county police.

1875.

The year 1875 saw the Battalion again under canvas on Rushmoor Bottom, the training lasting from May 10 to June 5.

Before leaving Oxford the officers entertained Prince Leopold (afterwards the Duke of Albany, whose untimely death in 1884 the whole nation mourned) at their Mess at the Clarendon Hotel. He was then at Christ Church, and came to dine, attended by Mr. Collins his tutor, Lord Brooke, Sidney Herbert, and one or two of his other undergraduate friends being invited to meet him. There were twenty-three officers present, exclusive of Horatio Symonds, who was acting as Assist.-Surgeon for the training.

As it was not expected Col. Annesley would be entitled to a nomination to the Line this year, Lieut. Henley, to whom the next had been promised, was transferred to the 5th Lancashire for the purpose of obtaining one, his uncle, Arthur Henley, being Adjutant of that Battalion, and during the year he was duly gazetted to the 82nd.

A nomination was, however, awarded to the Oxfordshire, and Lieut. Hawes was fortunate enough to obtain it, being posted to the 104th, in which Regiment his father had served in India¹.

The corps with which the Battalion was especially allied at Aldershot were the 3rd Rifle Brigade, under Col. Maclean, the 1st 15th under Col. Grierson, the 84th under Col. Hardy, and the Bucks Militia, now the 3rd Battalion of the Oxfordshire Light Infantry.

Many of the officers of the 1st 15th were old friends of mine, as I had met the Battalion in New Brunswick in 1862-4, when Col. Grierson was the senior Major.

The inspection of Militia on arrival in camp was now the rule, and

¹ He is now second in command of 2nd Batt. Royal Munster Fusiliers.

on May 13 Major-General Shipley came to look at the Battalion, but he never appeared again, Col. Grierson (familiarily known as Toby) being in charge.

The training was an uneventful one, the only red-letter days being the Queen's Birthday celebration on May 29, when the Battalion marched past with its usual precision, and a rather short battle round Caesar's Camp on June 1. The regular inspection took place on June 2, and was a rather elaborate affair. After the regimental books, &c. had been examined in camp by Col. Grierson, the Battalion marched to the N. Camp Parade Ground, where the whole of the Militia Battalions were inspected by General Stevenson and Col. Bulwer, the Berks and Oxfordshire being afterwards drilled as a Brigade by Lord Norreys (the colonel commanding the former) under the immediate command of the senior Major.

Officers, May, 1875:—

Lieut.-Col. Hon. A. S. A. Annesley (late 16th Lancers).

Major Thomas Mosley Crowder.

„ Charles Rivers Bulkeley.

Capt. Edward C. S. Tompson.

„ Edwin Frend.

„ J. Lynch Fletcher (late Commissariat Dept.).

„ Arthur B. Cook.

„ William P. Wood.

„ Walter B. Barrington (late Coldstream Guards).

„ Harold A. Dillon (late Rifle Brigade).

Lieut. Frank Willan.

„ Warner J. L. Heriot.

Sub-Lieut. Benjamin R. Hawes.

„ Ernest H. Taunton.

„ Charles H. B. Williams.

„ Robert ap Hugh Williams.

„ Austin Mackenzie.

„ Robert H. Elwes.

„ Algernon F. Peyton.

„ Alan G. Chichester.

Adj. John F. A. Sparke (late Capt. 84th Foot).

Quartermaster William W. Holloway.

Surgeon John Briscoe.

Assist.-Surgeon Patrick Kavanagh.

1876.

The Battalion had now, since 1867, trained every year (with the exception of 1869) at Aldershot, but this year it was sent, at a later date than usual, into Gloucestershire, in accordance with a new mobilisation scheme.

The United Kingdom was supposed to be divided into eight Army Corps, and two of them, the 2nd and 5th, were mobilised in July. The 2nd was at Aldershot, and the Head-quarters of the 5th were at Salisbury, under the command of Sir Almeric Spencer.

The 5th Corps consisted of three Infantry Divisions; the 3rd, under Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, being allotted to Gloucestershire and stationed on Minchinhampton Common, a high down above the Stroud valley. This was subdivided into two Brigades, the first, consisting of the two Gloucestershire Militia Battalions and the Oxfordshire, under Major-General Fordyce; and the second of the Berkshire and two Tower Hamlets Militia Battalions, under Major-General Thackwell, the Bucks Militia, and two companies of the 38th Regiment acting as divisional troops.

'Mobilisation' was the term adopted, but the division at Minchinhampton could not move, as it had no transport, and the whole affair proved to be a pleasant picnic in charming weather, to the great amusement of the neighbouring rustics.

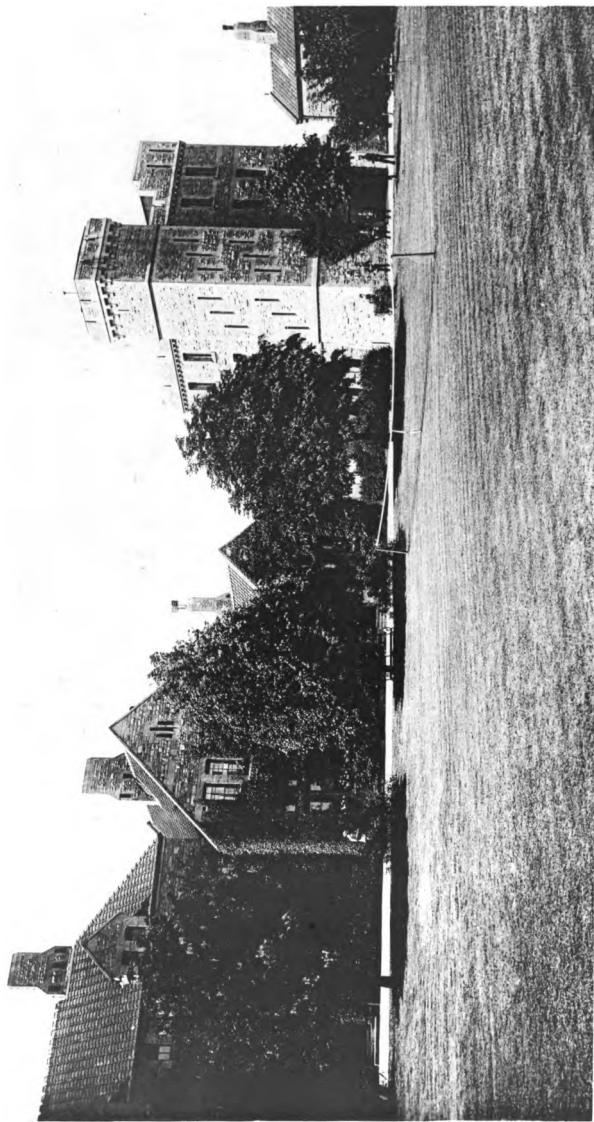
Each field officer had a bell tent instead of the usual marquee, and the Captain and Subaltern of each company were allowed a tent between them, a fact which, on occasion, led to amusing differences of opinion.

The recruits had been called up for preliminary drill in the spring and dismissed, so the Battalion proceeded to Minchinhampton only about 450 strong. The training was from July 3 to 29.

Cowley Barracks had now been completed, and on June 7 the Dépôts of the two Line Battalions, the 52nd (Oxfordshire) and 85th (Buckinghamshire), took possession, being played up from the railway station by the band of the Militia. The Bucks Militia, though still retaining their dépôt at High Wycombe, were henceforth to form the third Battalion, and the Oxfordshire Militia the fourth of the 42nd Brigade Dépôt.

While they had their own numbers the Bucks were the 35th and the Oxford the 51st Regiments of Militia.

Among other changes it may be mentioned that Capt. Sparke had retired from the Adjutancy and had been gazetted a supernumerary



THE KEEP AND OFFICERS' MESS, COWLEY BARRACKS
1899

To face p. 94

Captain. The new Adjutant was Richard Pulteney, late Adjutant of the 52nd, and right well was he appreciated by all ranks.

The post of Adjutant was to be, in future, an appointment for five years, and held if possible by an officer of one of the Line Battalions of the Territorial Regiment.

Capt. Holloway, the Quartermaster, had also retired. He had been in the Battalion since the Militia was reformed in 1852, and had early obtained his company. Since that time it might almost be said that his promotion had been downwards, for he was made Paymaster in 1859 and Quartermaster in 1866. All were very sorry to lose 'dear old Bill'.

Lastly, as to changes, the absence of old Rye the Messman must not be omitted. Since the embodiment in 1857 he had always served in this capacity when the Battalion was absent from Oxford, but he was indisposed to venture into strange districts, and the services of one Howell were obtained. He provided an excellent French cook, who sometimes got drunk, and two good waiters who spoke the German tongue and were always on the spot and steady.

The period at Minchinhampton Camp, with beautiful weather and in a most lovely country, was generally uneventful, except for a difference of opinion between the Oxfordshire and one of the Tower Hamlets Battalions. This commenced, as usual, by a squabble between two men, and on Saturday and Sunday, July 15 and 16, the row threatened to assume formidable dimensions.

The Oxfordshire paraded with their officers each evening, expecting an attack, but fortunately matters settled down, and the Berkshire Battalion, being luckily encamped between the combatants, acted as a kind of fend-off between them.

The Tower Hamlets, in order to let off their steam, wrecked a public-house in Stroud, and the result of this lawless behaviour was the establishment of an officers' outlying picquet near the town, where a Captain and Subaltern were nightly on duty.

On July 15 the Duke of Cambridge came down to see the Division, and appeared well satisfied. On the 21st Prince Edward had the whole Division out for a short drill, and on the 25th there was a great burning of powder for the entertainment of the neighbourhood, the two Brigades fighting a mighty battle on the slopes towards

¹ Colonel Crowder is in error here, as Capt. Holloway's Lieutenant's commission was dated 1846, and he had therefore been thirty years in the regiment. He died in 1899.

Brinscomb. The regular inspection took place on July 26 under Prince Edward, and was satisfactory enough.

The people round Minchinhampton had been very civil to the troops, and on July 20 they organized some athletic sports for the officers and men, with liberal prizes. Some of the Oxfordshire officers, including poor young Mynors, were successful in foot races.

A. C. Baskerville Mynors, a sub-lieutenant at the time, won the quarter-mile in fine style. The prize, a claret jug, is still in constant use, having been presented by him to the Mess. He was a charming, bright, active Eton boy, best known there as 'Bunny' Mynors. He joined the 60th Rifles in 1878, and died, most deeply lamented by all who knew him, of dysentery in Zululand, April 25, 1879. The following account of the sports is taken from an Oxford paper:—

THE OXFORDSHIRE MILITIA AT MINCHIN- HAMPTON.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS IN CAMP.

(By our own Correspondent.)

'Thursday was a grand day for athletic sports for the whole of the camp. They were under the immediate patronage and sanction of Prince Edward. Two bands were told off to play on the ground, and one hundred men to keep the ground. They took place in Minchinhampton Park, and some good prizes were contended for by officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, special prizes for each. Oxford came off well in the contest in the officers' quarter-of-a-mile race; Oxford carried off first, second, and third in the staff sergeants' race; and in the "tug of war" Oxford beat the North Gloucester and the 38th Regiment, a detachment of which forms divisional head-quarters; the Royal Bucks beat the South Gloucester and the Army Service Corps, and had to pull off with the Oxford, and proved the winners, catching Oxford on the nap and dragging them over the mark before they were quite ready. In regard to the pull against Gloucester it was a severe one. Prince Edward and his staff sat on the grass to see it, and such was the excitement that the Gloucester people, a number of whom were present, broke the barrier and crowded round the two teams, and a great shout went up when it was known Oxford had won. The pull with the 38th proved a tougher job than the previous one, and it certainly took Captain Willan all his time to keep his men up to the mark, but

when I tell you that he not only pulled himself, but also acted as captain to the team, you may be sure that nothing was left undone. The ground now was well kept, and the many thousands present could see well; even Prince Edward became deeply interested, and the struggle was long and manfully carried out amid loud and enthusiastic cheering, and for a time so equally were they matched that it was impossible for the closest observer to give a decided opinion. Occasionally could be heard Capt. Willan calling upon his men, to which call they heartily responded, and gradually the 38th were drawn up to the mark, when a tremendous shout told that Oxford had won, and therefore took second prize.'

The S. Gloucester Militia, from Gloucester City, commanded by Sir William Guise, were liberal in their politics, and comprised among their officers several Whig M.P.'s.

The N. Gloucester, on the other hand, from Cirencester, commanded by Col. Wallington, were true blue. The senior Major was Bathurst, who subsequently succeeded to the title of the old Lord at Cirencester.

On returning to Oxford, July 27, the men were for two days in billets; the last time this most objectionable method of housing troops was resorted to.

On the 29th the Battalion marched up to Cowley Barracks in a storm and there deposited the arms in 'The Keep,' where in future all stores and equipments were to be housed, the old armoury in Oxford being handed over to the County Police.

R. H. Elwes received the nomination to the regular army this year, and was gazetted a Lieutenant in the Grenadier Guards in November. He was afterwards A.D.C. to General Colley in the Transvaal War, and fell at Laing's Nek in 1880, with Col. Deane, Major Hingstock, and many another good fellow.

He figures with Monck, another old Etonian, in Miss Thompson's (now Lady Butler) well-known picture, entitled 'Floreat Etona.' He is depicted with his sword held aloft, as he turned to Monck and said, 'Floreat Etona: come on, Monck, we must be in the first place.' At that moment Monck's horse was shot, and Elwes himself fell dead.

Algernon Peyton (now Sir Algernon) also joined the 3rd Hussars. He was ultimately transferred to the 11th, in which Regiment he became well known for his stud and success in cross country engagements.

The old cross-belts, with a kind of small portmanteau on them for ammunition, were discarded this year, and the rank and file were provided with two glengarries, instead of one and a shako, the latter entirely disappearing.

The facings of the regiment had hitherto been yellow, but were this year changed to buff, Her Majesty in October, 1876, signifying her approval of the alteration.

1877.

Again the Battalion did not go to Aldershot. The Barracks being occupied and the Brigade Dépôt system thoroughly established, the authorities appeared to think that the Militia should train at home, and the Oxfordshire was accordingly encamped in the enclosed space behind the Cowley Barracks, in which the Line Dépôt was quartered.

Col. T. Sargent, C.B., was in command, and the other officers stationed at Cowley were Major Barwell, Captains Blackwood and Drage, Lieutenants Meade and Cunliffe of the 52nd, as well as Captains A'Court and Ravenhill, and Lieutenants Smythe and Ives of the 85th.

The training, from May 7 to June 2, was most unsatisfactory. The position was very exposed and the weather singularly wet and cold. With the exception of one march to Oxford the Battalion was never out of the enclosure. The dépôt officers were extremely hospitable, and Col. Sargent also entertained some of the seniors at Woodperry; but otherwise, with the exception of visitors from Oxford, there was little conviviality, and, by the officers at any rate, a training at the Dépôt was not appreciated.

The inspection by Col. Sargent took place on May 31 and was fairly satisfactory.

One Child of the 36th had been sergeant-major since the disembodiment, but this year he retired (into a public house at Oxford, of course), and was succeeded by Virgo, lately a colour-sergeant in the 52nd. The latter proved an excellent man, and was much liked by all ranks. He obtained the post of Secretary to the Radcliffe Infirmary at Oxford, when he too, in the course of time, retired.

Lieut. Smith Dodsworth received the nomination this year, and in December was gazetted to the 11th Regiment.

Before the next training Lieut. Baskerville Mynors also obtained

a nomination, and was gazetted to the 60th Rifles, in which distinguished Corps he had, as before mentioned, so short a career. Lieutenants Chichester and Fiennes also did not come out for training again, the former being appointed to the 18th Royal Irish in December, 1878, and the latter to the 21st in January, 1879. Chichester was hit in the leg at Tel-el-Kebir in 1882, a wound which long rendered him incapable of all duty.

1878.

The recruits for the first time were this year trained at the Barracks, and under the command of Capt. Thompson proceeded to Aldershot on June 1 to pitch the camp on Redan Hill, ready for the arrival of the Battalion.

The remainder of the Battalion assembled at Cowley Barracks on June 3 and returned there on the 29th. This was the first occasion on which it had assembled and left Oxford on the same day, the return and paying off of the men being also accomplished on the last day of the training.

This arrangement has since been carried out every year and succeeds admirably, but on this occasion there were so many late arrivals among the men that only about 300 proceeded to Aldershot with the head-quarters.

Sir Thomas Steele still commanded the Aldershot Division, and for the first time the Battalion was attached to the 1st Brigade under Major-General Pakenham.

This officer went through the form of an inspection the day after arrival, but was afterwards seen no more.

The Line Battalions of the Brigade were the 31st and 49th, the 4th Middlesex Militia being also attached. In the N. Camp was quartered the first Battalion of the new Territorial Regiment, the 52nd Light Infantry; the third Battalion, the Royal Bucks Militia, being also encamped on Church Plateau. With both of these corps there was much interchange of hospitality, not only among the officers but also the non-commissioned officers, the Serjeants of the 52nd entertaining the Serjeants of the Militia Battalion on their arrival in camp. The latter afterwards returned the compliment by inviting the former to supper, about ninety in all, spending a happy and convivial evening.

There had been a scare of war with Russia, and the reserve, or a portion of it, had been called to the colours. All the Battalions at Aldershot were therefore very strong, some mustering nearly 1,200.

On April 3 an order had been received from the War Office to call up the Militia Reserve also, which was to assemble on the 19th. The number who had reported themselves by the 20th was sixty-one, there being two absentees. The men were attached to the Dépôt of the 52nd at Cowley Barracks, and remained there until July 29, when they were dismissed from army service and returned to their homes. They gave the appearance of a very useful body of men.

Many of the reservists, however, paraded without arms and accoutrements, until the Duke of Cambridge, disgusted at the spectacle, made it so hot for the authorities in London that the necessary equipment was provided.

There were three big field days during the training, one in the neighbourhood of the Long Valley and the others over the Fox Hills towards Pirbright, the last fight happening on an extremely sultry day. The Oxfordshire lads stuck gamely to their work and very few fell out, but it was not so with the Line Battalions, the road home being lined on both sides by dozens of men who had fallen out.

On June 27 Col. Baynes (who had succeeded to the command of the 43rd Brigade Dépôt) came from Oxford to make the formal inspection, which passed off very well.

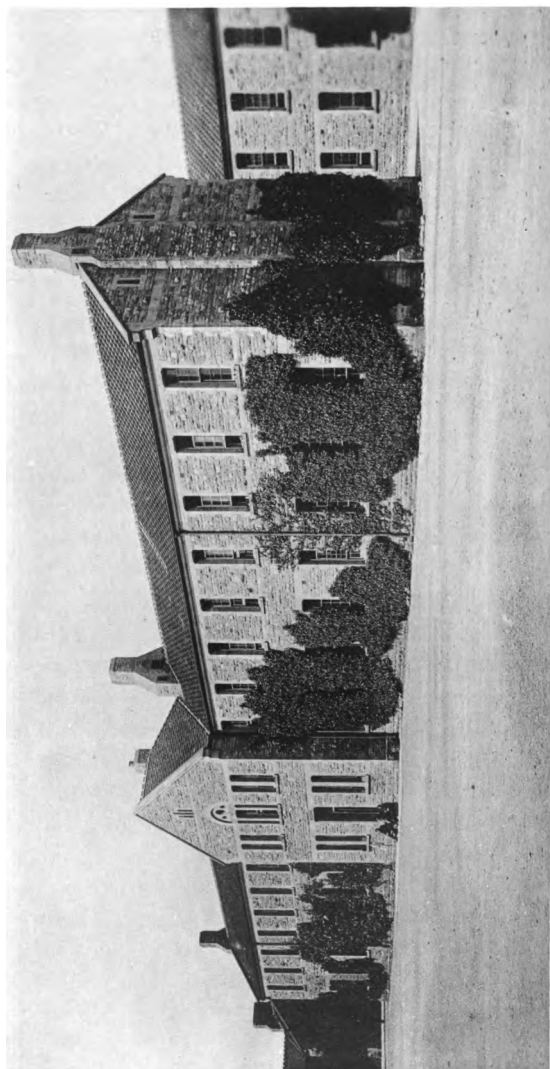
During the last two years while at Minchinhampton and Cowley the men had received no musketry instruction, but this year this essential portion of their training was resumed, under Lieutenant Cunliffe of the 52nd, who was attached to act as Instructor of Musketry.

A new system of attack in loose order was introduced into the drill book and practised this year.

The rank of Second Lieutenant was also substituted for that of Sub-Lieutenant, which had been introduced in 1874.

Surgeon-Major Briscoe having retired, and the authorities having decided not to appoint any more Surgeons in the Militia, the Battalion was for the first time without a Surgeon. The men were inspected on joining by the medical officer of the Dépôt, and any men falling sick in camp were sent to the Brigade Hospital.

One other innovation must be noted, viz. a new head dress. A modification of the German Pickelhaube, in the form of a spiked helmet, was introduced for officers and staff serjeants, but Militia non-commissioned officers and men still only wore glengarries.



COMPANY BLOCKS, COWLEY BARRACKS

To face p. 100

List of officers, *Army List*, June, 1878:—

Lieut.-Col. Com^g. Hon. A. S. A. Annesley (late 16th Lancers).

Major Thomas M. Crowder.

„ Charles R. Bulkeley.

Capt. Edward C. S. Tompson.

„ Edwin Frend.

„ J. Lynch Fletcher (late Commissariat Dept.).

„ Arthur Bott Cook.

„ Hon. Harold A. Dillon (late Rifle Brigade).

„ Frank Willan.

„ John F. A. Sparke (late 84th Foot).

„ Warner J. L. Heriot.

Lieut. Ernest H. Taunton.

„ Charles H. B. Williams.

„ Robert ap Hugh Williams.

„ Austin Mackenzie.

„ Geoffrey C. T. W. Fiennes.

„ John W. Davis.

„ Henry F. D. Thompson.

2nd Lieut. Sydney L. Robinson.

„ Hon. John R. de C. Boscawen.

„ Hugh C. Fortescue.

Adjutant Capt. Richard M. Pulteney (52nd Foot).

Quartermaster Samuel Haden.

Medical Officer John Briscoe, Surg.-Major.

1879.

The training this year was perhaps the least satisfactory that the Battalion has ever experienced. As in 1877 the camp was at Cowley, one or two companies being in the Barracks.

From motives of economy on the part of Government the training only lasted three weeks, from June 2 to June 21. The weather was singularly wet, and the camp had to be trenched and drained much in the same fashion as at Aldershot in 1872, to the great disgust of Captain Blackwood, the senior officer of the Dépôt.

The Mess also, under a man named Willey, head waiter to the late messman Howell, who had died since last training, was unfortunately very bad, and this added to the general discomfort.

Charles Williams was only out for a week, having volunteered for service in Zululand, where he afterwards experienced some rough work with the 94th in the Secuconi Campaign.

The Battalion was only outside the barrack-field once, on the occasion of a march through Oxford.

The inspection by Colonel Baynes took place on June 19. As this was Thursday in Commemoration week a large number of people from Oxford were entertained at luncheon afterwards.

T. E. Pilkington, an undergraduate of Christ Church, was attached for the training. He was a subaltern in the Renfrew Militia, and as he wore tartan trews he was known among his new friends as 'Stripes.' He was ultimately gazetted to the 3rd 60th, and served with them in Natal. Of the other subalterns, Sydney Robinson was the only one who joined the Army after this training, being appointed to the 93rd, and in consequence of his new connexion he came to be known among his old comrades as the Irish Highlander, being an Irishman by birth.

1880.

May 31 saw the Battalion again assembling for training at Aldershot. It was encamped on Church Plateau in the North Camp, and attached to the 3rd Brigade under Major-General Peyton, who, when in command of the 98th in 1868, had conducted the annual inspection. His Brigade Major was Captain William Molyneux of the 22nd.

Sir Thomas Steele still commanded the Division.

The weather was again very wet, and Captain Thompson caught a chill, which involved his removal from Aldershot, and resulted in a serious illness.

Captain Pulteney had resigned the Adjutancy, and his successor was Captain Boyle, who had also succeeded him as Adjutant of the 52nd. No Militia Battalion could have been more fortunate than the Oxfordshire was in obtaining the services of two such efficient and genial officers.

The military authorities were now entertaining rigid ideas of economy, and the good old custom of one Battalion entertaining another at dinner was forbidden. It was allowable to make the officers of another Regiment honorary members of the Mess, but entertainments on the old terms of no payment were forbidden.

The Line Battalions of the Brigade were the 52nd, under Lieut.-Col. Barwell, and the 1st Rifle Brigade, under Lord Edward Clinton,

with the Edmonton Militia (now the 7th King's Royal Rifle Corps), under Colonel Black, attached for training.

The Berkshire Militia were also at Aldershot, encamped upon Redan Hill, and the Bucks upon Rushmoor Bottom, in a very wet situation. Colonel Pratt, who had commanded them for many years, retired after the training, and was succeeded by Lord Carrington.

The inspection under Major-General Peyton came off on June 24.

There was only one big field day, when, on the 15th, the whole Division engaged in a big fight upon the Fox Hills.

No Musketry Instructor having as yet been appointed, Lieutenant Cocks, of the 52nd, was attached in that capacity.

Lieut.-Col. Crowder having resigned the post of Mess President (an office which it should be said he had filled for many years with the greatest zeal), Capt. A. B. Cook had been duly appointed in his place.

Changes in uniform this year comprised new forage caps with gold-laced peaks for officers (not unlike those usually worn by itinerant German bandmen) and the abolition of saddle-cloths for mounted officers.

After this training two officers joined the regular Army, 2nd Lieutenants W. Pulteney and Arthur Dewar, the latter being appointed to the 10th Regiment in October, and the former to the Scots Guards in April, 1881.

The strength of the battalion on dismissal, including all ranks, was 753, the officers being:—

Lieut.-Col. Com^g. Hon. A. S. A. Annesley (late 16th Lancers).

Major Thomas M. Crowder.

„ Charles R. Bulkeley.

Capt. Edward C. S. Tompson.

„ Edwin Frend.

„ J. Lynch Fletcher (late Commissariat Department).

„ Arthur Bott Cook.

„ Hon. Harold A. Dillon (late Rifle Brigade).

„ Frank Willan.

„ Warner J. L. Heriot.

„ George J. E. Dashwood (late Scots Guards).

Lieut. Ernest H. Taunton.

„ Charles H. B. Williams.

Lieut. Robert ap Hugh Williams.

„ John W. Davis.

„ Henry F. D. Thompson.

„ Hon. John R. de C. Boscawen.

„ Hugh C. Fortescue.

„ Henry Lee Pennell.

2nd Lieut. Thomas C. T. Warner.

„ William R. Pulteney.

„ Arthur W. Dewar.

„ Walter T. Coleman.

Adjutant Capt. Charles John Boyle (52nd Foot).

Quartermaster Samuel Haden.

1881.

This was the last year that the recruits trained together for two months before the old hands came out. In future they were to train in batches at the Dépôt immediately after enlistment, a step which, in connexion with the not giving them the ten shillings enlistment bounty as heretofore, is doing much to render recruiting more difficult, and materially to reduce the numbers of the Battalion.

On this occasion the recruits proceeded to Aldershot with the Adjutant and a few other officers a fortnight before the Headquarters, and were again encamped on Rushmoor Bottom, being attached to the 1st Brigade under Major-General Spurgin, whose Brigade Major was Captain Hare of the 22nd Regiment.

The training of the Battalion was from May 30 to June 25, and it proceeded on the day of assembly from Oxford to Aldershot Town Station. The camp was pitched about the centre of Rushmoor, but much nearer to the road than on previous occasions, which proved a decided disadvantage.

Sir Daniel Lysons now commanded the Division.

Second Lieutenant F. W. Forester of the Derbyshire Militia was attached for the training, and wearing a rifle uniform was usually known by the name of 'Sweep.' He was very popular, and ultimately joined the 3rd Hussars.

The Battalion had now again a Musketry Instructor of its own, for the first time since Major Bulkeley had given up the appointment on promotion in 1874, 2nd Lieut. Coleman having now obtained a certificate at Hythe.

The usual formal 'marching in' inspection took place on May 31,

the day after arrival in camp, and on June 7 the whole Division paraded in the North Camp on the Queen's Parade for inspection by the Duke of Cambridge. It poured with rain and the Duke did not appear. A thorough soaking was the sole result.

The only field day in which the Oxfordshire took part was on June 21, when a fight took place upon the Fox Hills.

Two Divisions were formed, one being under Major-General Havelock-Allan, V.C., commanding the 2nd permanent Brigade. He became unduly excited, and shortly afterwards went 'off his head,' and vacated his command.

On this occasion the Royal Bucks and Oxfordshire were formed into a distinct Brigade under Colonel Annesley.

Sir Havelock-Allan afterwards completely recovered, and sat in the House of Commons for many years as member for the SE. division of Durham. His tragic death in one of the Afghan passes in 1898 when, still a member of Parliament he was seeking information on the spot during the NW. frontier operations, will be fresh in the recollection of many.

On June 23 the regular inspection took place under Major-General Spurgin, but was of an unusual character, inasmuch as it was preceded by a Divisional Parade before the Duke of Cambridge in the North Camp. There the Battalion marched past and at once returned to camp, when the books were examined, some field movements being executed in the afternoon.

Major-General Spurgin had the character of a martinet, but expressed himself well satisfied.

The Battalions with which the Oxfordshire were most associated were the 32nd Light Infantry and the Bucks Militia. The 32nd had been old friends at Dover in 1859-60, when the Headquarters returned from India after their successful defence of the Residency at Lucknow. They were again very friendly, and insisted on giving the officers breakfast on the morning of departure, most of their own being present, at an unseemly hour, to say farewell.

The Royal Berkshire Militia were also under canvas on the western slope of Cove Common and were as genial as ever. A dinner, at which some of the 'old boys' were present, took place on June 16. Few were able to come, but the gathering was a very pleasant one. Briscoe (late Surgeon-Major of the Battalion), Chichester (now in the 18th Royal Irish), and Lowndes, of the Bucks Militia, were present.

The latter had been originally, in 1869, gazetted to the Oxfordshire, but never came out for training.

Sports for the men took place on June 18 and were well managed. It was an opportunity for having a large party at luncheon, many old friends putting in an appearance.

Lieut. Pennell, although still in the Battalion, was only out with the recruits, and did not remain for the training. In January, 1882, he was duly gazetted to the 1st Dragoon Guards.

The total strength of the battalion on dismissal, of all ranks, was 792.

1882.

The Oxfordshire Militia was no more. On July 1, 1881, the Regiment had become the 4th Battalion of the Oxfordshire Light Infantry, and officers, non-commissioned officers and men were 'gilded,' wearing exactly the same uniform as the Line Battalions, with the addition of the letter M on the shoulder-strap. Collar badges for officers were discarded, the distinctive stars and crown being worn upon the shoulder-straps.

Regimental numbers, sad to say, were abolished, and the privates could only be distinguished by the county designation in small white letters on their shoulder straps.

Changes were numerous. Red-coated regiments became rifles and vice versa, and some Scotch battalions of the Line, hitherto in trews, were put into kilts. The rank of 2nd Lieutenant was abolished¹, and the title of Lieutenant became the one for all subalterns.

By General Order 41, dated May 1, 1881, the infantry of the line and Militia were organized in territorial regiments, and the title 'Regimental District' was to be in future used instead of that of 'Sub-District.'

By General Order 70, of July 1, 1881, the 42nd District was renumbered the 43rd, the numbers of all regimental districts being made to agree with the old number of the 1st line battalion.

So far as the Oxford Regimental District was concerned, the Dépôt of the 85th was removed to Shrewsbury, and the 43rd Light Infantry took its place. It had been nominally the Monmouthshire Regiment, but since the days of the Peninsular Light Division it had been intimately connected with the 52nd. The Regimental Districts were

¹ To be restored again in 1887.

renumbered, and that of Oxford became the 43rd, instead of the 42nd as hitherto. The 43rd Regiment became the 1st Battalion, the 52nd the 2nd, and the Bucks and Oxford Militias the 3rd and 4th of the Oxfordshire Light Infantry, all in the same uniform, the helmets and forage caps being dark green, and the facings white.

This affiliation in one territorial regiment with the regular county battalion was a high honour, and one which should in future raise the standard of merit to be attained by the officers and men of the Militia.

Napier, in his *History of the Peninsular War*, describes the 52nd Light Infantry as 'a regiment never surpassed in arms since arms were first borne by men.' It formed part of the Light Division during the Peninsular War, fighting with distinction in nearly all the principal battles and sieges. In addition to this it was in the forefront at the battle of Waterloo, and behaved with exceptional steadiness and bravery.

The 52nd, with upwards of a thousand bayonets (many of them fresh from the ranks of the Militia), was probably the strongest battalion on the field. Late in the afternoon of that memorable day the 52nd were formed in two squares on the right, a few hundred yards to the left of Hougoumont. The French Imperial Guard were observed advancing in dense columns. The battalion formed into line, with the right thrown forward, and opened fire on the Guards. Shortly afterwards it charged, and the Imperial Guard broke and gave way. Continuing the advance, in company with the 71st and 95th, it was in the forefront right up to La Belle Alliance and the conclusion of the battle, losing in all 206 killed and wounded.

During the Indian Mutiny also the 52nd fought with great valour at the storming of Delhi.

The regiment was originally raised in 1755, when eleven regiments of the line were added to the Army, and it is therefore senior to the county Militia by twenty-three years.

The 43rd Light Infantry also had an honourable record, and was now appropriately linked with the 52nd.

It had been originally raised in 1741, in which year an augmentation of seven regiments was made.

The 43rd formed part of the celebrated Light Division in

the Peninsular, but it had not the good fortune to be present at Waterloo. In 1814 it was on service in America, and distinguished itself at New Orleans. It was then brought home and despatched immediately to the Netherlands, landing at Ostend on June 17, 1815, where the news of Waterloo having been already fought and won was received. During 1863 the 43rd saw some sharp fighting in New Zealand against those noble men the Maoris.

The drums and fifes of the two Militia Battalions were now abolished with the view of ultimately introducing a bugle band, and the old Oxfordshire drum-major's staff, dating from the end of the last century, was relegated as a curiosity to the Mess room at Cowley Barracks.

This was the first year that the Battalion was armed with Martini-Henry rifles in place of Sniders, and although such a superior weapon in accuracy of fire, it was a strange fact that the men made worse practice with it. They appeared to be frightened by the new rifle, and it certainly had, with its smaller bore, greater recoil than the old weapon.

With no preliminary drill for the recruits as a body, the old hands and recruits assembled together at Cowley Barracks on June 5, and for the first time proceeded to Aldershot from Littlemore Station, instead of from Oxford.

The encampment was on the plateau of Cove Common, just west of the Queen's Hotel, and twenty-five officers were present.

Sir Daniel Lysons was still in command, and the Battalion was attached to the 3rd Brigade, under the Duke of Connaught. The Duke was on sick leave, suffering from acute hay asthma, and Colonel Moore of the 93rd Highlanders represented him as Brigadier. William Molyneux, as in 1880, was Brigade Major.

The Line Battalions in the Brigade were the 50th (1st Royal West Kent Regiment), 56th Pompadours (2nd Essex), 93rd (2nd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders), and the 104th (2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers). The 47th (1st Royal North Lancashire) were in the permanent Barracks. They had been old friends at Aldershot in 1858-9.

On June 7 the usual marching-in inspection was held by Colonel Moore. On the 20th a big fight took place round the Long Valley before the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge, followed by two more battles, one on the 23rd on the Fox Hills, and

the other three days later in the Long Valley area. The regular inspection took place on June 29, under Colonel Moore, when the field movements were carried out on the North Camp Parade ground, and were fairly satisfactory.

On June 27, late in the evening, the Mess Hut, or rather Huts, of the 50th Regiment were burnt down. It was a fierce fire, and most of the regimental plate was unfortunately melted.

The 'Old Boys' dinner on June 23 was well attended. Briscoe, Friend, Lowndes, Wood, W. Pulteney, Hawes, and Robinson were present, the two last named being now quartered in camp in the Munster Fusiliers and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders respectively.

On June 19 and 20 Aldershot was in a great state of excitement on account of an entertainment on a large scale being given by Colonel Reilly and the officers of the Artillery to the Prince and Princess of Wales, who were staying at Her Majesty's Pavilion, the Queen's Hotel in the North Camp being entirely reserved for the party accompanying them.

On the 19th, for their amusement, nine batteries of Artillery executed various manœuvres, and subsequently marched past beyond the Long Valley, near the Steeple Chase course. In the evening there was a concert by the Artillery Band in the Club House, at which many officers of the Oxfordshire were present, followed by a private dance in the Artillery Barracks. One result of this was that the Artillery subalterns became utterly incapable of duty for several days, their heads having been completely turned by the determination of the attractive Princess to dance with no gunner of a higher rank.

The field day, already referred to, took place next day, the Prince and Princess of Wales, with all their party, being mounted.

There were an unusually large number of officers examined for promotion this training. Captain Cook passed for the rank of Major, Lieutenants C. Williams, R. Williams, and Warner for the rank of Captain, and Lieutenant Dobbie the ordinary examination of a Subaltern before the end of his second training.

The Battalion returned to Cowley Barracks via Oxford on July 1, and a dinner given at Corpus College by the senior Major, Lieutenant-Colonel Crowder, at which several of the Officers of the Dépôt as well as those of the 4th Battalion were present, proved to be a very pleasant ending to an uneventful training.

The total strength, all ranks, on dismissal was 534.

A handsome silver challenge cup had been presented to

the battalion by Major Bulkeley, to be annually competed for by the subaltern officers in an 150 yards flat race. The first winner of the prize proved to be Lieut. the Hon. J. R. de C. Boscawen.

Officers, June, 1882 :—

Lieut.-Col. Com^d. Hon. A. S. A. Annesley (late 16th Lancers).

Major T. M. Crowder.

„ C. R. Bulkeley.

Capt. E. C. S. Tompson.

„ J. L. Fletcher.

„ A. B. Cook.

„ Hon. H. A. Dillon (late Rifle Brigade).

„ F. Willan.

„ W. J. L. Heriot.

„ G. J. E. Dashwood (late Scots Guards).

„ R. M. Pulteney (late Adj. and Capt. 52nd Regt.).

Lieut. C. H. B. Williams.

„ R. ap Hugh Williams.

„ J. W. Davis.

„ H. F. D. Thompson.

„ Hon. J. R. de C. Boscawen.

„ H. C. Fortescue.

„ T. C. T. Warner.

„ W. T. Coleman.

„ J. Williams.

„ W. G. Lloyd.

„ W. H. Makins.

„ C. F. Dobbie.

Instr. of Musketry W. T. Coleman (Lieut.).

Adjutant C. J. Boyle (Capt. 52nd Regt.).

Quartermaster J. Reilly (Hon. Capt. 52nd Regt.).

1883.

The training lasted from June 11 to July 7, the Battalion proceeding from Littlemore Station as usual, being encamped upon Cove Common, exactly as last year, and attached again to the 3rd Brigade, under the Duke of Connaught, with William Molyneux as Brigade Major.

Sir Daniel Lysons was still commanding the Division, but now occupied the new house built for the Lieutenant-General within the Guards' Enclosure, immediately to the south of the Plateau. The regular Battalions of the Brigade were the 87th (1st Royal Irish Fusiliers), 3rd Battalion of the Rifle Brigade. The Edmonton Rifles Militia (5th Royal Rifles), old friends of the Oxfordshire and best known as the Barnet Militia, were also attached.

The Militia at Aldershot this year, in addition to the 2nd Derbyshire, who were encamped on Gun Hill, comprised three Irish Battalions—the S. Down, Wexford, and Roscommon. They only had about a clear fortnight at Aldershot, but while there were extremely well conducted.

The Duke made a cursory inspection of the Battalion the day after its arrival, and he appeared to be still suffering severely from his old enemy, hay fever.

The colours now carried (embroidered by the ladies of Oxfordshire, as before recorded) had been received by the Battalion at Portsmouth in May, 1855, on the eve of its departure for the Mediterranean. They were in excellent condition, but old-fashioned and heavy. It had been therefore arranged that, during this training, the Battalion was to receive new ones of the existing light pattern, the regimental colour being white instead of yellow as heretofore. The presentation was to be made by the Duchess of Connaught. Consequently the drills were continually varied by rehearsals of the movements and ceremony in connexion with the presentation.

Field days were light and easy. One on the Fox Hills on June 19, and one in the Long Valley before the Duke of Cambridge, when there was much rain, but the Battalion marched past extremely well.

The regular inspection took place on July 5, under the Duke of Connaught, who paid great attention to all details of internal economy, and expressed himself well satisfied with the drill.

The following day was devoted to the great show in connexion with the colours, and the weather being magnificent the whole affair proved a complete success. The ceremony took place in the afternoon upon the Queen's Parade, North Camp, where a large oblong space was enclosed by the men of the 87th Fusiliers. There was a large attendance of spectators, and the Duchess and Lady Lysons drove on to the ground in two carriages immediately before the commencement of the ceremony.

Archdeacon Palmer (brother of the late Lord Selborne) came from Oxford to consecrate the colours, and Lieut.-Colonel Crowder

and Major Thompson presented them to the Duchess, who then delivered them to Lieutenants Charles Williams and the Hon. John Boscawen. Lieutenants John Williams and C. F. Dobbie carried the old colours, and Lieutenant Boscawen commanded the escort during that part of the ceremony.

The Duchess made a very pretty speech to Colonel Annesley, referring to the good conduct of the Battalion, and expressing her confidence that this would continue, connected as the Battalion now is with two such distinguished corps as the 43rd and 52nd.

After the march past and royal salute the Battalion returned to camp, and a large company of guests, including the Duchess, Lady Lysons, and all the officers of the 87th, partook of tea and strawberries as a conclusion to the proceedings. The whole of the Mess arrangements were most excellently managed by Captain A. B. Cook, the Mess President. Additional marquees had been erected, a fountain established, and unlimited flowers provided. A very large luncheon party had been given previous to the ceremony, and some 150 guests were then entertained from the neighbourhood, London, and Oxford.

Whilst marching through Oxford, on the return to barracks, the new colours were uncased, and the old ones carried in rear of the battalion, to be eventually deposited in the County Hall, where they now hang together with others still more ancient. On July 21 the following letter was received from Mr. T. M. Davenport, the Clerk of the Peace:—

COUNTY HALL, OXFORD,
July 20th, 1883.

SIR,

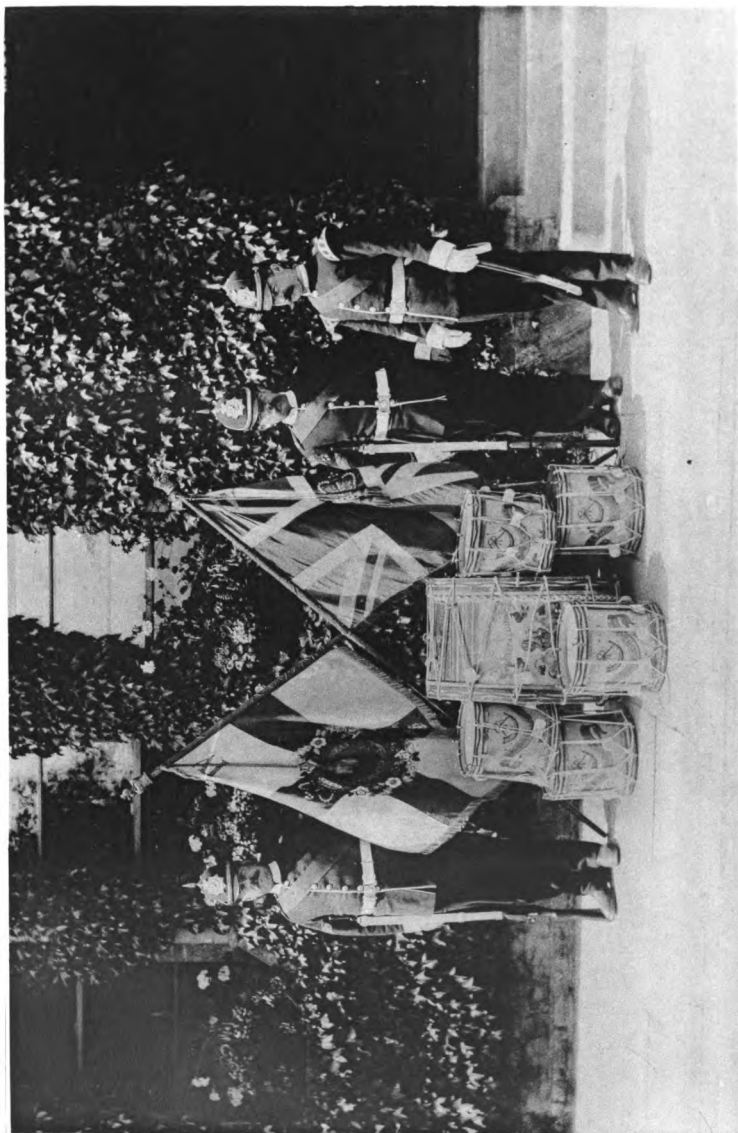
I am desired by the Chairman of Quarter Sessions and the Magistrates of the County to thank you and the officers of the Regiment for depositing the old Colours of the Oxfordshire Militia in this Hall to-day, and to inform you that it is a pleasure to the Magistrates to be entrusted with the custody and preservation of the Colours.

I am, your obedient servant,

THOMAS M. DAVENPORT.

To the Colonel commanding
4th Oxfordshire Light Infantry.

By permission of Col. Annesley a reading and recreation tent, furnished with books, papers, and games, was this year



COLOURS PRESENTED BY H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT
1883

To face p. 112

started by Capt. Willan. The marquee was lent by him for the purpose, and was fitted also with a bar, where coffee, non-alcoholic drinks, and light food could be obtained.

The canteen fund had hitherto been maintained entirely by the bonus paid by the firm of brewers who were given the privilege of supplying the beer canteen; but now the profit from this coffee bar was in future to be given to the fund, all of which, in one way or another, is expended for the benefit of the men. This small beginning towards supplying a comfortable and quiet place of rest for those men who did not wish to patronize the brewers' bar, eventually, in 1889 and subsequent years, grew to larger proportions, both as to the size of the tent and the business done in it.

Major C. R. Bulkeley, Capt. R. Pulteney, and Lieut. W. H. Makins were absent on leave from the training.

Major Bulkeley's challenge cup was run for during the training and carried off by Lieut. W. G. Lloyd.

1884.

The Battalion training was again at Aldershot, and lasted from June 9 to July 5. After thirteen consecutive trainings under canvas it seemed quite strange to be quartered luxuriously in the new huts of A and B lines, North Camp.

The quarters for the men were quite new, built of brick, and most airy and commodious. The officers' huts were the old wooden ones, but the Mess was established most comfortably in one of the newly-erected Recreation Rooms.

These new brick huts described by Col. Crowder were the first which had been built under the great scheme prepared for the gradual abolition of the old wooden huts, now in a very bad condition, and the rebuilding of the whole camp with brick. Those which had been erected in the North Camp were well built and very comfortable, but they were only of one floor. This was a wasteful plan, and it was afterwards found advisable to build blocks of two stories. The whole of Aldershot Camp has now been rebuilt, and soon there will be few officers or men in the Army who will be able to recollect the dreadful old sheds in which the majority of the division were housed.

The greater part of this splendid work, extending over several years, from about 1884 to 1895, was carried out under the superintendence of Col. Brine, C.R.E., at the camp, and in consequence a good name was invented by some wag for the new Aldershot, viz. Brinopolis.

Sir Daniel Lysons had been superannuated, his successor in command of the Division being Sir Archibald Alison, G.C.B., a very genial chief.

The Battalion was, as usual, attached to the 3rd Brigade, now commanded by Major-General the Hon. W. H. Fielding, Molyneux being still the Brigade Major, but in his fifth and last year. The Brigade consisted of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards, 1st Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers, and 3rd Rifle Brigade. The Edmonton Rifles (5th Royal Rifles) were again encamped upon Cove Common and also attached to the Brigade.

It proved to be a most comfortable and uneventful training. There was an occasional Brigade drill upon the Queen's Parade and one divisional day in the Long Valley in honour of the Queen's Birthday on June 28, but there were none of the usual battles on the Fox Hills and elsewhere.

The Brigadier was fond of making speeches, and delivered a series of complimentary addresses; one at the marching in inspection, another after a Brigade day, a third after the regular inspection, and a final speech on the morning of departure.

The regular inspection took place much earlier than usual, viz. on the Monday and Tuesday of the fourth week, which left the men unreasonably little to do at the end of their time, although very convenient for those officers who wished to visit Henley Regatta.

The first day of the inspection was devoted to field movements, and the following morning to books and internal economy, which all passed off very satisfactorily.

The Battalion was very weak this year, and it was only with the utmost difficulty that eight companies of twenty-four file could be paraded. Entertainments and amusements were frequent and festive, with the advantage of the spacious Mess quarters. A friend of Lieut. Makins, who was staying at the Queen's Hotel for Ascot week, placed his coach almost entirely at the disposal of the officers, and several pleasant visits to the races resulted from this kind attention on his part.

A dinner was also given to the Staff on June 30, when Sir

Archibald Alison, Colonel Gildea, and others, honoured the Mess by their presence.

A dinner given to the 'old boys' on June 27 attracted Surgeon-Major Briscoe and Captains Tompson, Frend, and Wood.

Mr. Fieldsend was again acting as Messman during the training.

On returning to Cowley Barracks the Battalion for the first time detrained at Littlemore Station instead of Oxford. This arrangement had the advantage of a much shorter march, but involved considerable disappointment to the citizens of Oxford, some of whom still took some slight interest in their county Militia.

The difficulty experienced by many Militia Battalions in keeping up an efficient band had long been felt, and the band had for some time been in an unsatisfactory condition. This year, for the first time, several musicians were engaged for the training, and an improvement upon the performances of the last few years was the result.

Since the training of 1883 Capt. J. L. Fletcher had retired, with the honorary rank of Major, after twenty-six years' service in the battalion. Capt. and Quartermaster Reilly had been placed on retired pay, with the rank of Major, and had been succeeded by Sergt.-Major J. Griffiths from the third battalion, as Quartermaster, with the rank of Lieutenant. Capt. R. ap Hugh Williams had been transferred to the Royal Anglesea Militia, Lieut. C. H. B. Williams promoted Captain, and A. S. E. Annesley (a son of the Colonel) had been appointed 2nd Lieutenant.

1885.

Wars and rumours of wars, especially the Russian advance on Afghanistan, caused the embodiment of certain Militia Battalions in the month of March. There were six Battalions of Foot—the Royal Westminster (3rd Royal Fusiliers), Queen's Own Tower Hamlets (5th Rifle Brigade), 1st Royal Surrey (3rd East Surrey), East Kent (3rd Buffs), 1st Durham (3rd Durham Light Infantry), and the Wexford (3rd Royal Irish). Two Brigades of Artillery were also embodied—the Hampshire (2nd Brigade, Southern Division) and the Devonshire (3rd Brigade, Western Division).

At Aldershot were the Tower Hamlets and Royal Westminster. From June 8 to July 4 the Battalion was at Aldershot, being again attached to Major-General Fielding's 3rd Brigade in the North Camp, and quartered in K, L, and M lines.

It had been previously quartered in these huts in 1867, but much improvement had been effected since those days, and amongst other luxuries, both for officers and men, there were a Billiard Room and Lawn Tennis Ground.

To those who recollected what the Camp was like in 1858-9, when eight Subalterns were quartered in one hut, and one large hut had to serve for both Mess and ante-room, the increased space and comfort allowed to a Battalion was very striking.

Aldershot was extremely empty, many Battalions having been sent abroad, and the Brigade consisted of only the 62nd Regiment (1st Wilts) and Tower Hamlets (embodied) Militia. The Edmonton Rifles Militia (7th King's Royal Rifles) were also encamped as usual on Cove Common.

Capt. C. J. Boyle had left, his five years' tenure of the appointment having lapsed, and his successor was Major H. A. Adair, also from the 52nd, but now transferred from the 1st Somerset Militia, of which Battalion he had been Adjutant for some time.

Capt. Boyle had also seized the opportunity of entering into the holy bonds of matrimony, having been married early in June.

The strength of the Battalion was slightly higher than last year, being 538 of all ranks. It was, as usual, strong in officers, five Subalterns having joined since last year, and all being present at the training except Lieut. Thompson.

The first fortnight was mainly occupied with musketry instruction, half of the Battalion having passed through the course last year, and the other four companies being exercised in a similar manner during this training.

The range accommodation at Aldershot was at this time becoming inadequate for the increased force generally quartered there, especially during the summer, when several Militia battalions were there for training, and the progress of the musketry course was so slow that it had become customary to put only half a battalion of Militia through during the annual training.

The Militia course being a poor one at best, it was certainly not conducive to efficiency in this most important part of a soldier's training that the men should only do firing exercise drill and target practice every two years.

Although drill was carried on very regularly the men experienced no trying days, and the Battalion was never further away than the

Queen's Parade, with the exception of two occasions, when in conjunction with the 62nd and the Tower Hamlets Militia it was engaged on outpost duty below Cove Common, under Major-General Fielding, who had a partiality for this particular exercise.

The Divisional and Brigade parades upon the Queen's Parade, North Camp, in which the Battalion took part, were as follows:—On June 24 General Anderson, who now commanded the Division in the absence of Sir Archibald Alison, had the whole of the Militia out, the Brigade consisting of the 4th Middlesex (5th Royal Fusiliers), the Derbyshire, the Edmonton, and the Oxfordshire. On June 29 and 30 Major-General Fielding exercised his North Camp Brigade; and on July 1 the Duke of Cambridge inspected the whole of the Infantry of the Division on the Queen's Parade, and the Cavalry and Artillery in the Long Valley.

The Oxfordshire experienced the two usual inspections; the first, a cursory one, on the day after arrival, and the other, more searching, on July 2, when the men turned out wonderfully clean and ship-shape—not a buckle was out of place and the greatcoats marvellously folded. The kits and barrack rooms were equally good. The drill was intelligent, if not precise, and General Fielding made every officer whom he called out, from Colonel to junior Captain, change the front of the line or quarter-column on two fixed points, which he marked with camp colours on some peculiar angle in front or rear of the existing position.

The General expressed himself in highly favourable terms as to the conduct and appearance of the Battalion during the present and last year's trainings.

There had been fear that a fracas might ensue between the Tower Hamlets and the Oxfordshire in consequence of the Minchinhampton tradition, but fortunately nothing of the kind occurred. One sad event happened. A Staff Serjeant of B Company, an old Marine, named Clarke, dropped down dead from heart disease on returning to his quarters one evening. He was buried with military honours.

There was a remarkably good Recreation Room in L lines, with a stage, on which various entertainments were given.

The old boys' dinner, held on June 24, was very cheery for the youngsters, but very sad for the senior Major, who must join the old boys' division in September next. Those present were Briscoe, Tompson, Wood, Fiennes, and Makins.

The last officer who had joined the Regular Army from the Battalion was Pennell, who in January, 1882, was gazetted to the

Dragoon Guards. This year Lieut. Dobbie was appointed to the 105th (2nd Yorkshire Light Infantry) in February, and Lieut. Makins to the 4th Dragoon Guards in May.

Changes in uniform are frequent, but this year the only variation was the introduction of white waistcoats instead of scarlet for Mess dress.

The subalterns' foot race was won this year by Lieut. H. A. T. Robinson.

The five subalterns mentioned as having joined since the last training were—H. A. Temple Robinson, J. H. Upton Cottrell Dormer, H. M. Jessel, C. M. R. Rycroft, and J. D. T. Tyndale Biscoe. Capt. and Hon. Major E. C. S. Thompson had retired after twenty-three years' service, much regretted by all who knew him. His retirement caused a gap in the ranks of the officers in more senses than one.

The officers present at the training were:—

Colonel the Hon. A. S. A. Annesley.

Lieut.-Col. T. M. Crowder.

„ C. R. Bulkeley.

Capt. A. B. Cook.

„ the Hon. H. A. Dillon.

„ F. Willan.

„ W. L. Heriot.

„ G. F. E. Dashwood.

„ R. M. Pulteney.

„ C. H. B. Williams.

„ J. W. Davis.

Lieut. the Hon. J. R. de C. Boscawen.

„ H. C. Fortescue.

„ T. C. Warner.

„ W. J. Coleman.

„ J. Williams.

„ A. S. E. Annesley.

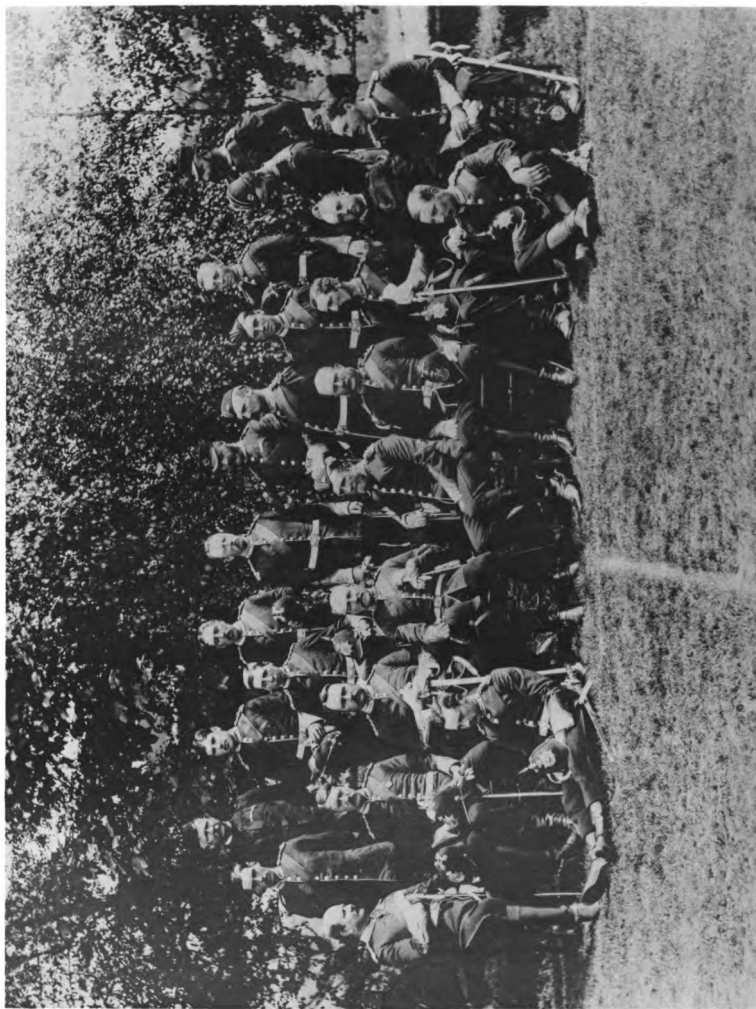
„ H. A. T. Robinson.

„ J. H. Upton Cottrell Dormer.

„ J. M. Jessel.

„ C. M. R. Rycroft.

„ J. D. T. Tyndale Biscoe.



GROUP OF OFFICERS
1885

To face p. 118

Major and Adjutant H. A. Adair.

Lieut. and Quartermaster J. Griffiths.

The only officer absent on leave was Lieut. H. F. D. Thompson.

COLONEL CROWDER'S RETIREMENT AND SUBSEQUENT DEATH.

With the foregoing description of the training of 1885 the personal narrative of the service and changes in the Oxfordshire Militia, so carefully recorded by Colonel Crowder in his diary, comes to an end.

He was superannuated in September, 1885, under the inflexible regulation that requires majors to retire at the age of fifty-five. Colonel Crowder joined the regiment in October, 1857, and had therefore all but completed twenty-eight years' service.

How deeply he felt his compulsory retirement from the corps he loved so well, and how for years he still clung to it and took the greatest interest in its welfare, we who had the pleasure of serving with him well know.

A note in his diary for 1886, when the battalion was again training at Aldershot, is somewhat pathetic: 'I am out of it, but visited the battalion.'

He did indeed frequently visit us, and was a most faithful attendant at the 'old boys' dinners, where he was ever most welcome.

He had been for several years Bursar of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and continued his active work in that office until his death, which took place on October 22, 1892. A charming little obituary notice was afterwards written, and printed for private circulation, by his old friend and constant travelling companion, the Rev. H. F. Tozer, Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford. It is entitled 'In Memoriam: T.M. Crowder,' and a few extracts from it (which I have the author's permission to make) will not, I think, be out of place.

'Eighteen months ago most people in the University would have said that Crowder of Corpus, from his fine physique and vigorous healthy life, was more likely than any of his contem-

poraries to attain a green old age. But this was not to be. Toward the end of the Summer Term of 1891 he was suddenly and unaccountably seized with a slight attack of paralysis, and by this his heart was seriously affected. He gradually recovered, and during the year following, though he was obliged to forgo his favourite amusement of hunting, he was able to do the usual work as College Bursar, and to enjoy in a quiet way the society of his friends. But about three weeks ago his condition changed for the worse, and it became clear that the heart was giving way. His strong constitution fought hard against the disease, and at one time it seemed not improbable that his life might be prolonged, but at last he sank, and early in the morning of last Saturday he passed quietly and painlessly away. Thomas Mosley Crowder was born in 1830 of a good Yorkshire family, and his father had served with distinction in the Peninsular War. He was educated at the Grammar School at Richmond in his native county, and from thence came up as an undergraduate to Wadham College, which at that time contained a remarkable number of able men. With all these Crowder was on terms of intimacy, and he was well known both as a hard reading man and a useful oar in the College Eight. He took his B.A. degree in Michaelmas Term, 1852, with a Second in Classics. Early in the following year he started on a short tour in Italy, and it was on this occasion I first met him, in Rome.'

Mr. Tozer then proceeds to mention many of Colonel Crowder's travels in Italy, Sicily, Greece, Asia Minor, Egypt, and Russia, in most of which he accompanied him. He describes him as 'an admirable traveller—energetic, hardy, enterprising, ready in meeting an emergency, full of good humour, which was not interfered with by the *désagrément* of rough living, painstaking in collecting information about the countries he visited and their inhabitants; well equipped also with languages, for he could speak French, German, Italian, and Modern Greek.'

After speaking of his connexion with the Oxfordshire Militia and the manner in which he carried out his duties as Bursar, Mr. Tozer concludes his notice with the following

words, which accurately sum up the prominent points of Colonel Crowder's character:—

'In society at large those who were brought in contact with him at once recognized the sterling worth of his character. The leading features of this were simplicity and manliness, and its ruling motive was a strong sense of duty, which was based on very genuine, though very unobtrusive religious feeling. By many he will be remembered as a kind entertainer, as well as an agreeable and invigorating companion; and in the hearts of those who knew him best he will live as a loyal and affectionate friend.'

On October 25 an impressive funeral service was held in the College Chapel, at which several of the officers still serving in the battalion were present, as well as others who had retired from it.

The commanding officer, Colonel C. Rivers Bulkeley, being unfortunately prevented by illness from being present, Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. Cook, the senior major, represented him, and placed a beautiful wreath upon the coffin. The adjutant, Major Adair, was also absent through indisposition, but Captain Sir George Dashwood, Captain C. J. Boyle, and Lieutenant Griffiths the Quartermaster, as well as all the sergeants of the permanent staff, were present. The Honourable H. A. Dillon, the Honourable Conrad Dillon, E. S. Harrison, W. A. Wykeham-Musgrave, J. W. Davis, and J. Briscoe, all at one time or another his comrades, also attended.

After the service the body was removed for interment in Yorkshire, and the procession to the railway station, augmented by the Vice-Chancellor and Proctors of the University, Heads of Colleges and other friends, was both a long and imposing one.

The following letter was subsequently received by Major Adair, the Adjutant:—

'CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, OXFORD,
Oct. 25, 1892.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am desired by the President and Fellows to beg you to accept yourself, and to convey to the men, their best thanks for the attendance of the staff sergeants of your regiment

at the funeral of Colonel Crowder this day. I am to say how much the College were gratified by their presence, and by the union of arms and togas to do honour to one who was pre-eminently a good soldier and a good man.

With regret that you were unable to be present yourself, and with renewed thanks,

I am, yours very faithfully,

To
Major Adair.

CHARLES PLUMMER,
Dean of C. C. C.'

ANNUAL TRAININGS,

1886-1899.



THE task of narrating the movements of and changes in the battalion subsequent to the year 1885 now devolves upon me.

1886.

On June 14 the battalion again proceeded to Aldershot to undergo its annual training. It was encamped on the high part of Cove Common, near the general's house, called Cove Plateau, which is perhaps on the whole the most dry, healthy, and convenient camping-ground in Aldershot.

Major-General Fielding still commanded the 3rd Brigade, to which the battalion was attached. The marching in strength being 24 officers, 21 staff sergeants, 15 sergeants, 8 buglers, 31 corporals, and 584 privates; total, 683.

There had been several changes among the officers. Lieutenant H. F. D. Thompson had resigned his commission, and Lieutenant Hercules A. T. Robinson had been seconded as Aide de Camp to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of Cape Colony. Captain A. B. Cook had been promoted Major (vice Lieutenant-Colonel Crowder); Captains the Hon. H. A. Dillon and R. M. Pulteney granted the honorary rank of Major; Captain C. J. Boyle (late Adjutant and also previously Adjutant of the 52nd) had been gazetted Captain and Hon. Major; and the Hon. S. Fitz-Roy Ormsby Gore and G. S. Hanson, Lieutenants.

A new valise equipment had been issued to the men, of the 1882 pattern, with brown leather belts and pouches. This equipment was a very decided improvement upon the old

one, and the brown belts, which were also being at this time used by several of the regular battalions (including the 2nd Battalion of the Oxfordshire), looked very smart when kept in good order. Great care, however, had to be exercised in bringing the new belts into proper condition, and this proved so exceedingly difficult with Militiamen under canvas and in varying conditions of weather, that many of them were so stained that they never recovered the wear of this first training, and their appearance was ruined.

The training was an uneventful one, and there was no review or large field day of importance worth mentioning, with the exception of one which was organized for the delectation of the numerous Colonial visitors who had come to the mother country in connexion with the Colonial Exhibition. For this about 15,000 men were mustered, and the 4th Oxfordshire formed part of the force.

The subalterns' prize for running was won by Lieutenant C. S. Hanson, after a good race.

A very satisfactory inspection, under Major-General the Hon. W. Fielding, took place on July 8, and two days later the battalion returned to Cowley Barracks for dismissal.

In November of this year Lieutenant H. M. Jessel (now M.P. for South St. Pancras) received a commission in the 17th Lancers. The battalion also lost a most excellent sergeant-major, A. E. Virgo, his time having expired. He had previously been a colour-sergeant in the 52nd, and it is not too much to say that he was beloved and respected by all the officers and men, who were gratified by his shortly afterwards obtaining the post of Secretary to the Radcliffe Infirmary at Oxford, which he still holds. He was succeeded by Sergeant-Major Richard Swift from the Guards.

The officers present at the training were:—

Colonel the Hon. A. S. A. Annesley.

Lieut.-Col. C. R. Bulkeley.

Major A. B. Cook.

Capt. and Hon. Major the Hon. H. A. Dillon.

Capt. F. Willan.

„ W. L. Heriot.

Capt. and Hon. Major R. M. Pulteney.

Capt. C. H. B. Williams.

„ J. W. Davis.

Capt. and Hon. Major C. J. Boyle.

Lieut. the Hon. J. A. de C. Boscawen.

„ H. C. Fortescue.

„ T. C. Warner.

„ W. J. Coleman.

„ J. Williams.

„ A. S. E. Annesley.

„ T. H. Cottrell Dormer.

„ H. M. Jessel.

„ J. D. Tyndale Biscoe.

„ G. E. W. Fitzwilliam.

„ G. S. Hanson.

„ the Hon. Fitz-Roy Ormsby Gore.

Major and Adjutant H. A. Adair.

Lieut. and Quartermaster J. Griffiths.

Captain G. F. E. Dashwood was absent on leave.

1887.

The battalion was again this year ordered to Aldershot, and Cove Common was the spot on which for a month's training, commencing on June 20, it was encamped. The strength on assembly was—officers, 20; sergeants, 37; corporals, 28; buglers, 8; privates, 647; total, 740. Since last training Lieutenant W. T. Coleman had resigned his commission, and F. E. Withington and H. F. Darrell Brown had been gazetted Lieutenants.

Militia battalions on Cove Common or the neighbourhood were always at this time attached to the 3rd or North Camp Brigade, as the custom of forming them into a separate brigade under a special brigadier had not been inaugurated.

Major-General Buchanan, C.B., had taken over the command, and the brigade consisted of the 2nd King's Own Scottish Borderers, 1st Middlesex, and 2nd West Riding Regiment, with two other Militia battalions also attached, viz. the 3rd Royal Berks and 7th King's Royal Rifles.

The event of the year was the great Jubilee Review, held

in the Long Valley, in honour of the fiftieth year of the reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria. A large number of troops were temporarily brought to Aldershot for the occasion, including an enormous force of Volunteers, in addition to the several Militia battalions in training there.

The weather was extremely hot and fine during the whole training. On June 21 the Queen's accession was celebrated all over the country, and the enormous bonfires which could be seen all round, including an exceptionally fine one on the top of Caesar's Camp, were an impressive sight.

On the 23rd the battalion took part in a big field day on the Fox Hills before the Crown Prince of Germany and several other royal personages, who had come to England to take part in the Jubilee celebrations. The Crown Prince, before whom the division marched past at the conclusion of the operations, shortly afterwards became the Emperor Frederick of Germany, whose tragic death is still fresh in the memory of most people.

The big review before Her Majesty took place on July 9 in the Long Valley, and proved an unqualified success.

The aim of the military authorities had been to place 60,000 men in the field, but it is doubtful if the parade state on the day quite reached this figure. The force was divided into two Army Corps, the first consisting of Regulars and Militia, and the second of Volunteers only. In addition to the Cavalry, Artillery, Engineers, Transport, and Medical Staff Corps, there were eight infantry brigades in the 1st Army Corps and fifteen in the 2nd.

The 4th Oxfordshire formed part of the 8th Brigade, 4th Division of the 1st Army Corps, together with the 3rd Royal Berkshire and 7th King's Royal Rifles.

Her Majesty was received on arrival by a Jubilee salute of fifty guns, fired by the field batteries posted on the ridge to the east of the Long Valley, and when she reached the flag at the saluting base the massed bands of the 2nd and 3rd Divisions (sixteen in number) played God Save the Queen. The volume of sound which rolled across the plain as they played that most beautiful of all national anthems was most stirring, and indeed a thing never to be forgotten

by those who heard it. The 1st Corps was commanded by Lieutenant-General Sir A. Alison, Bart., K.C.B., and the 2nd by Major-General Sir Evelyn Wood, V.C., G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

It was a long, hot, dusty and generally fatiguing day for the troops taking part in it, especially the Yeomanry and Volunteers, some of whom had come a long way and had to return the same night. Even the 4th Oxfordshire paraded at 7.30 a.m. and did not get back to camp until 3.30, although the battalion had a very short distance to go.

Great preparation had been made by the officers for the entertainment of the Oxfordshire Yeomanry, who also took part in the review, but unfortunately, owing to their having to hurry off to entrain for Oxford, they had left camp before the battalion returned, not however before both man and beast had been amply refreshed. The Berkshire Yeomanry were in like manner entertained by the 3rd Royal Berks, who were the next door neighbours of the battalion on Cove Plateau.

Helmets had been served out temporarily to the Militia battalions taking part in the review, and their substitution for the ugly and insignificant glengarry made a great improvement in their general appearance. As however they were only served out two days before the review much ingenuity had to be exercised in fitting them in a decent manner to the men's heads.

A handsome silver challenge cup having been presented last year by W. A. Wykeham Musgrave, late a captain in the battalion, to be competed for with the service rifle by the officers, the first contest took place during the training, the conditions being seven shots at 200, 500, and 600 yards respectively. Lieut. the Hon. J. R. de C. Boscawen obtained the highest score and carried off the trophy until the next training.

The subalterns' race was again won this year by Lieutenant C. S. Hanson.

Major-General H. J. Buchanan, C.B., made a thorough inspection of the battalion on July 13 and seemed well satisfied. He was kind enough to recommend to the authorities that helmets should be permanently issued to the Militia, but in spite of this and many other recommendations and requests

to the same effect, they were not served out until eight years afterwards.

On July 16 'rouse' was sounded in camp at 3.30 a.m., the men had their breakfast at 4.30. Camp was struck at 5, and entraining at the North Camp Station at 7.45, the battalion arrived at Littlemore soon after 9 and marched to the Barracks. Thus ended a very hot but pleasant and interesting training. Before the next training the colonel's son, Lieutenant Arthur Annesley, was appointed to the Rifle Brigade, Lieutenant J. D. Tyndale Biscoe to the 11th Hussars, and Lieutenant G. E. W. Fitzwilliam had joined the Blues.

On July 19 the officers of the battalion were hospitably entertained at dinner at the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor of London, the Right Hon. Sir Reginald Hanson, Bart., whose son was at this time a lieutenant in the corps.

The officers present at the training were :—

Colonel the Hon. A. S. A. Annesley.

Major and Hon. Lieut.-Col. C. R. Bulkeley.

Major A. B. Cook.

Capt. and Hon. Major the Hon. H. A. Dillon.

Capt. F. Willan.

„ W. L. Heriot.

„ G. J. E. Dashwood.

Capt. and Hon. Major R. M. Pulteney.

Capt. J. W. Davis.

Capt. and Hon. Major C. J. Boyle.

Lieut. the Hon. J. R. de C. Boscawen.

„ H. C. Fortescue.

„ T. C. Warner.

„ J. Williams.

„ J. N. Cottrell Dormer.

„ G. C. W. Fitzwilliam.

„ G. S. Hanson.

„ F. E. Withington.

2nd Lieut. H. F. Darrell Brown.

Major and Adjutant H. A. Adair.

Lieut. and Quartermaster J. Griffiths.

2nd Lieutenant Sir H. Hill, Bart., of the 4th Suffolk, was also attached for the training.

1888.

The afternoon sun on June 4 shone down upon the white tents of the Battalion, with officers and men busy with the unpacking of baggage and other duties, upon almost exactly the same spot which it had occupied the previous year. The marching in strength was 17 officers, 31 sergeants, and 645 rank and file.

Aldershot, and Cove Plateau in particular, seemed to be so much the settled locality for the annual training that it had become customary to store at Farnborough some of the heavy impedimenta of the Battalion, such as the floor-boards of the mess tents, canteen bar, and big marquee poles. The cunning old company cooks, too, were in the habit of burying on the side of the hill sundry bricks and shells which they used in the construction and ornamentation of the field kitchens, and it was amusing to see them, on arrival, proceeding to their cache for the purpose of unearthing these treasures.

Major-General Buchanan, C.B., still commanded the 3rd Brigade, in which one of the battalions of last year (the 2nd King's Own Scottish Borderers) still remained; the other regular battalions being the 1st Royal Sussex and 2nd Connaught Rangers, with the 7th King's Royal Rifles again attached.

The camp was a pleasant one, the weather generally fine and warm, and the training uneventful. There were only two big field days, viz. a brigade day on June 25, and a divisional fight on the day following.

The whole Battalion went through a course of musketry at the Ash ranges, the marking being done by a fatigue party of the Connaught Rangers, and proving, on most occasions, to be of a very erratic character.

Major C. J. Boyle acted as Musketry Instructor, in the place of Major Pulteney, who was absent from the training on leave.

The officers' challenge cup was won by Captain and Hon. Major F. Willan, and the subalterns' race by Lieutenant F. E. Withington,

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The strength of the Battalion was good, 799 all told, and the parade state on the day of inspection by the Brigadier showed a total of 629.

To give an instance of the celerity with which a well-organized Militia Battalion can be paid off and disbanded, on the completion of its training, I may give an extract from my diary under date Saturday, June 30, 1888:—

'Rouse sounded 3.30 a.m. Breakfast at 5. Parade at 6. Left North Camp Station at 7. Arrived at Littlemore Station 9.15. Marched up to the Barracks, took arms and clothing into store, and, having finished paying the men of my company at 12.50, left the Barracks at 1 p.m. and arrived home at Southampton Station at 5.30.'

Two small changes in drill and equipment were experienced this year—a new method of carrying swords, and the substitution of brown leather gloves for white ones, a very sensible improvement.

The following changes had taken place during the year among the officers:—Captains Willan and Heriot had been granted the honorary rank of Major. Charles Philip Wynter and Robert Wentworth Doyne had been gazetted 2nd Lieutenants in the Battalion.

The officers present at the training were:—

Colonel Hon. A. S. A. Annesley.

Lieut.-Col. C. Rivers Bulkeley.

Major A. B. Cook.

Capt. and Hon. Major Hon. H. A. Dillon.

„ „ F. Willan.

„ „ W. J. L. Heriot.

Capt. G. J. E. Dashwood.

„ C. H. B. Williams.

Capt. and Hon. Major C. J. Boyle.

Lieut. Hon. J. R. de C. Boscawen.

„ H. C. Fortescue.

„ T. C. Warner.

„ J. Williams.

„ J. H. Upton-Cottrell-Dormer.

„ G. S. Hanson.

„ Hon. Fitz-Roy Ormsby Gore.

Lieut. F. E. Withington.

2nd Lieut. H. F. Darrell Brown.

„ C. P. Wynter.

Major and Adj. H. A. Adair (late 2nd Battalion).

Lieut. and Quartermaster J. Griffiths.

Major R. M. Pulteney and Captain J. W. Davis were absent on sick leave.

1889.

The training this year was at Aldershot, from June 17 to July 13, and the strength on day of assembly—officers 24, sergeants 37, rank and file 691; total 772. Cove Plateau was again the camping ground; the weather was fine and the training uneventful. The 3rd Brigade (to which the Battalion was, as usual, attached), now commanded by Major-General C. M. Clarke, C.B., consisted of the following line Battalions:—1st Bedfordshire, 2nd Connaught Rangers, and 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers.

The whole Battalion went through musketry under Major Pulteney, and there was a decided improvement in the firing.

The annual inspection by General Clarke was a very searching one, but the Battalion came well out of the ordeal, the men being especially steady at drill, and the 'interior economy' proving to be in good order.

The officers' shooting competition was this year again keenly contested, the cup falling into the hands of Major Willan, Lieutenant Withington again winning the subalterns' foot-race.

On July 11 six old officers dined at Mess, including Colonel Crowder, who came over from Oxford.

There was again a change in uniform, red serge patrol jackets being reintroduced for all except full dress parades. The return to Cowley Barracks on the conclusion of the training was effected with even greater speed than last year, the Barracks being reached at 9.45 a.m., and all the men were paid off before one o'clock.

During the training of 1883, as previously recorded, a recreation and refreshment tent had been instituted, the marquee being lent for the purpose by Major Willan, the

President of the Canteen Committee. This had proved a success, and permission was this year given by Colonel Annesley for a further experiment to be made in the supply of all groceries to the companies through this dry canteen (so called), instead of each company being supplied separately by a contractor.

A large marquee was therefore purchased out of the profits which had accumulated from the coffee bar, and both the accommodation for the men and the facilities for doing business were much improved.

The changes since last training consisted of the resignations of Captain J. W. Davis and Lieutenant G. S. Hanson; Lieutenant H. A. T. Robinson had joined the Royal Irish Fusiliers; Captain C. H. B. Williams had been granted the honorary rank of Major, and Lieutenant J. R. de C. Boscawen promoted Captain; Henry Arthur Charles Talbot, Walter George Leon Montague Douglas Scott, and James Blyth had been appointed 2nd Lieutenants.

1890.

On June 19 the Battalion, with a strength of 23 officers, 38 sergeants, and 674 rank and file—total 735, assembled and proceeded to Aldershot, encamping upon Cove Plateau. With the exception of Major Hon. H. A. Dillon (who had been granted leave, on being appointed secretary to the Westminster Abbey Commission), and Lieutenant Hon. J. R. de C. Boscawen, the whole of the officers were present for training.

There had been also the following changes:—Major Cook granted honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel; 2nd Lieutenants C. R. Wynter, H. A. C. Talbot, and R. W. Doyne promoted Lieutenants; R. Pulteney Pulteney and E. A. Stafford O'Brien appointed 2nd Lieutenants; while 2nd Lieutenant H. F. Darrell-Brown had obtained a commission in the 52nd, and Lieutenant Hon. Ormsby Gore had retired.

The weather was, on the whole, fine, though somewhat cold for the first few days.

The 3rd Brigade was still under the command of Major-General Mansfield Clarke, and the inspection made by him upon June 13 was, as usual, a searching one. He concluded

however by complimenting Colonel Annesley upon the high state of efficiency of the Battalion, its excellent discipline, and the good conduct of the men.

The whole Battalion was put through a course of musketry upon the Ash ranges, and the firing was fair, although the figure of merit was not quite so good as that of the previous year.

Major Willan for the third time carried off the prize in the officers' shooting competition, and the subalterns' annual race was won by Lieutenant C. R. Wynter.

June 14 saw the men back again at the Dépôt and dismissed to their homes.

In January following Her Majesty was graciously pleased to present to the officers a picture representing Her Majesty and the late Prince Consort at a Review and Sham Fight at Aldershot in 1859, in which the Oxfordshire Militia took part, under command of the late Colonel Fane.

Another challenge cup was this year presented to the Battalion. It consisted of a very handsome silver bowl, on which was engraved the following inscription :—‘ Presented to the 4th Oxfordshire Light Infantry as a challenge prize to be held by the best shooting Company in the Regiment, by :—

Major F. Willan.

„ C. H. B. Williams.

„ C. J. Boyle.

Capt. Sir G. J. E. Dashwood, Bart.

Lieut. T. C. T. Warner.

„ J. Williams.

„ J. H. Upton-Cottrell-Dormer.

„ J. Blyth.’

OFFICERS—June, 1890.

Colonel Hon. A. S. A. Annesley (late 16th Lancers).

Major C. R. Bulkeley.

„ A. B. Cook.

Capt. and Hon. Maj. Hon. H. A. Dillon (late Rifle Brigade).

„ „ F. Willan.

„ „ W. J. L. Heriot.

Capt. Sir G. J. E. Dashwood, Bart. (late Scots Guards).

Capt. and Hon. Maj. R. M. Pulteney (late 2nd Battalion).

„ „ C. H. B. Williams.

„ „ J. J. Boyle (late 2nd Battalion).

Capt. Hon. J. R. de C. Boscawen.

Lieut. H. C. Fortescue.

„ T. C. T. Warner.

„ J. Williams.

„ J. H. Upton-Cottrell-Dormer.

„ F. E. Withington.

„ C. P. Wynter.

„ R. W. Doyne.

„ H. A. C. Talbot.

2nd Lieut. J. Blyth.

„ W. G. L. M. Douglas Scott.

„ R. P. Pulteney.

„ E. A. S. O'Brien.

Inst. of Musketry R. M. Pulteney, Hon. Major.

Adj. H. A. Adair, Hon. Major (late 2nd Battalion).

Quartermaster J. Griffiths, Hon. Lieut.

1891.

A new departure was taken this year with regard to the musketry training of recruits, upwards of 160 proceeding, on May 25, under 4 officers and the staff sergeants, to Aldershot for a fortnight's preliminary course of musketry.

Lieutenant Withington had been appointed instructor of musketry, vice Captain Pulteney, and he entered upon his new duties with great zeal and energy.

Since the last training Lieutenant C. R. Wynter had obtained a commission in the Suffolk Regiment, and Major Hon. H. A. Dillon had resigned; Captain Sir G. Dashwood, Bart., had been granted honorary rank of Major; Lieutenant H. C. Fortescue promoted Captain; 2nd Lieutenants Scott and Blyth to Lieutenants; and Walter Hugh Hamersley appointed 2nd Lieutenant.

On June 8 the remainder of the Battalion arrived from Oxford, the total strength then amounting to 23 officers, 36 sergeants, and 566 rank and file—total 625. The camping ground was Cove Plateau. The weather for the first week was cold, and after that very hot.

On June 17 the Battalion took part in a divisional field day on the Fox Hills, before His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief. The other Militia Battalions present were 3rd Royal West Surrey, 3rd Bedfordshire, 4th East Surrey, and 7th Battalion King's Royal Rifles.

At the conclusion of the field operations His Royal Highness sent for all the officers of Militia, and expressed his keen sense of the value of the Militia force generally, and his great satisfaction at the manner in which the Battalions present had acquitted themselves that day.

On July 24 there was a field day which was both early and wet, and in the afternoon a party of 48 non-commissioned officers, accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel Bulkeley, Major Cook, Major Willan, and one or two other officers, went up to London to see the great Naval Exhibition which was going on at Earl's Court. Colonel Bulkeley had very kindly made all the arrangements for their dining at the Exhibition, &c., and the whole party thoroughly enjoyed their visit.

On July 1 the Battalion took part in a divisional field day, being brigaded with 2nd Battalion East Kent Regiment (the Buffs), 1st Battalion Somersetshire Light Infantry, 1st Battalion Durham Light Infantry, and 2nd Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, under the command of Colonel Hallam Parr, C.M.G., A.D.C.

It was certainly trying a Militia Battalion rather highly to call upon them to work in brigade with four such crack corps, but, on the conclusion of the operations, the Brigadier specially complimented Colonel Annesley on the manner in which the 4th Oxfordshire had acquitted itself, the quiet steadiness of the men, and their aptitude and readiness in manoeuvre, both of which, he said, had immensely surprised him.

The officers' shooting competition was headed by Major C. J. Boyle, and Lieutenant W. H. Hamersley won the running cup.

The challenge bowl, presented the previous year by several of the officers, in order to encourage competition by the different companies during the musketry course, fell into the hands of Major Willan, whose company, E, had obtained the highest figure of merit.

The regular inspection was again conducted by Major-General C. Mansfield Clarke, C.B., and proved a very satisfactory one. Colonel Annesley, who had now commanded the Battalion for nineteen years, and had served in it for no less than forty-three, was about to retire under the age regulations, and he issued a farewell address in Regimental Orders as follows:—‘Colonel Annesley cannot resign his command of the 4th Oxfordshire Light Infantry without expressing his thanks to the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates of the Regiment, for the way in which they have always supported him, and so contributed to the efficiency and good name which he is happy to say the Battalion has ever borne.

‘To the permanent staff his thanks are especially due, as it is greatly owing to their exertions and zeal that the discipline of the Regiment has been so well maintained.

‘Colonel Annesley feels that, in saying farewell to the Regiment of which he has been so proud, he has no fears of them, and he knows their conduct of the past will be their conduct in the future, a future which will bring credit to themselves and honour to their country.’

On July 4 the Battalion returned from Aldershot, and was paid off at Cowley Barracks.

1892.

Since last training there had been several important changes in the higher ranks of the officers. Colonel Hon. A. S. A. Annesley had retired, universally beloved and regretted, and he had subsequently been appointed Honorary Colonel.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. Rivers Bulkeley had been given the command with the rank of Colonel, and Captain and Honorary Major F. Willan had been promoted Major.

Major Pulteney and Lieutenant J. Williams had resigned their commissions; Lieutenants Withington and Warner had been promoted Captains, and 2nd Lieutenants Pulteney and O'Brien Lieutenants; whilst R. H. W. Brewis and Oliver Needham Holt had been appointed 2nd Lieutenants. Lieutenants Needham Holt and Dormer were absent on leave from the training.

On March 14 a preliminary drill of recruits commenced

at the Barracks, two of the junior officers being called up to assist the Adjutant, and, on May 2, the party, consisting of 4 officers, 23 sergeants, 4 corporals, 7 buglers, and 203 privates, proceeded to Aldershot for a fortnight's musketry.

The institution of this preliminary course of musketry for those men who had joined since last year was a distinct advantage, and had a decided effect upon the general shooting of the whole Battalion. The recruits were put through one course without hurry, and with more individual attention bestowed upon them than would have otherwise been possible; and then, when the rest of the Battalion had arrived, they were again put through a more advanced course with the trained men.

Letter E Company again proved itself to be the best shooting Company in the Battalion, but it was now commanded by Captain Warner. Lieutenant and Quartermaster J. Griffiths won the officers' cup, and Lieutenant R. W. Doyne outran all the other subalterns and carried off Colonel Bulkeley's prize.

The strength of the Battalion on the day of assembly, May 16, was 23 officers, and 700 non-commissioned officers and men, and the encampment was on Scroggs Bottom, within the boundaries of the South Camp.

On May 25 the Battalion took part in the ceremony of the Queen's Birthday Parade, and was the only Militia Battalion in the Division that attended, the others declining on the ground of their not being sufficiently advanced in their drills.

On the conclusion of the proceedings, however, Colonel Bulkeley was complimented by Lieutenant-General Sir Evelyn Wood (now in command of the Aldershot Division) on the manner in which the men marched past. The following paragraph appeared subsequently in the *World* newspaper under the heading of the 'Queen's Birthday Parade on Laffans Plain.' 'The Division, over 9,000 strong, were on parade, all regulars except the 4th Oxfordshire Light Infantry, who volunteered to attend, and looked most soldierly, acquitting themselves generally so well that they would not have been recognized as Militia had it not been for their forage caps and kerseys being so prominent among the helmets and tunics of every one else.'

Colonel Bulkeley was unfortunately absent through illness at the assembly of the Battalion, but joined it at Aldershot about eight days after its arrival there. The only extensive field operations were one divisional day, which commenced with a line of outposts being formed along the canal; and a steady Brigade field day under General Gregorie.

A system of messing for the men had been tried, apparently with success, in one of the Surrey Militia Battalions, and this year the men of the 4th Oxfordshire were served with their meals in the same manner. Two large marquees, with tables and forms, were hired, and half a battalion was accommodated in each of them. At meal times the men of each company were ordered to fall in under their colour-sergeant, with their knives, forks, and spoons. The dinners were brought up from the kitchens by the orderly men, and divided in equal portions under the superintendence of the orderly officer, bread, salt, pepper, and mustard being also placed upon the tables, and each man was provided with a soup plate and basin. As soon as all was ready the advance was sounded, and each company marched into the tent in file, the front and rear ranks dividing on either side of the tables. There were necessarily a few little difficulties to contend with at the outset, but the system soon worked smoothly, and has not only been in use ever since, but has also been adopted by several other battalions.

The manifest advantages in the system are that :—

1. The messing for the whole Battalion, being carried out by the sergeant cook, under the superintendence of the Quartermaster, more economy and greater variety can be attained.
2. The men's tents and lines are kept much more clean, being free from the bones and grease, &c. which were ever attendant on the meals when consumed in them.
3. The men can sit comfortably at a table and enjoy their food better.
4. Their uniform and accoutrements are much less liable to be stained by grease spots.

As the system this year was only on trial, marquees were hired, but afterwards two large marquees, seventy-five feet

by thirty-five feet, were purchased out of the canteen fund, and have been in use ever since. Not only are these of great service in this direction, but they are often useful for parade or kit inspection on a wet day.

The system of supplying all the men's groceries through the dry canteen, which was commenced in 1889, had proved a great success, not only by securing improved quality and full weight in the different articles, but in the profit earned for the canteen fund instead of its going into the pockets of the contractor. The net profit from this source and the refreshment bar, exclusive of the bonus from the brewers on the beer canteen, was this year nearly £40, and the marquee was enlarged.

The annual inspection was conducted by Major-General Gregorie, C.B., commanding the 1st Infantry Brigade, and on June 11 the Battalion returned to Cowley Barracks for dismissal.

The only festivity during the training was a luncheon, to which Colonel Annesley, Major Slater Harrison, and several other old officers were invited. The special object of this gathering was to present to the late commanding officer a handsome silver salver, which had been subscribed for by the officers in token of their love and esteem for their old chief, and in memory of the happy years they had passed under his beneficent rule.

OFFICERS.—May, 1892.

Lieut.-Col. Charles Rivers Bulkeley.

Major and Hon. Lieut.-Col. Arthur Bott Cook.

„ Frank Willan.

Capt. and Hon. Major Warner J. L. Heriot.

„ „ Sir George J. E. Dashwood, Bart.
(late Scots Guards).

Capt. and Hon. Major Charles H. B. Williams.

„ „ Charles J. Boyle (late 2nd Batt.).

Capt. Hon. John R. de C. Boscawen.

„ Hugh C. Fortescue.

„ Thomas C. T. Warner.

„ Frederick E. Withington.

Lieut. J. H. Upton-Cottrell-Dormer.

„ Robert W. Doyne.

„ H. A. C. Talbot.

„ James Blyth.

„ W. G. L. Montague Douglas Scott.

„ Richard P. Pulteney.

„ E. A. S. O'Brien.

„ Walter H. Hamersley.

2nd Lieut. W. C. de M. Viscount Milton.

„ M. W. G. Rowley Conway.

„ Robert H. W. Brewis.

„ G. Needham Holt.

Inst. of Musketry F. E. Withington, Capt.

Adjutant H. A. Adair, Hon. Major (late 2nd Batt.).

Quartermaster J. Griffiths, Hon. Lieut.

1893.

On May 1 a party of recruits proceeded to Aldershot for musketry, and were accommodated in Marlborough Lines, North Camp. The strength was 7 officers, 20 staff sergeants, 7 sergeants, 8 buglers, and 273 rank and file.

Since last training Lieutenant W. H. Hamersley had resigned his commission, 2nd Lieutenant Viscount Milton had been promoted Lieutenant, and Angus John McNeill appointed 2nd Lieutenant.

Captains Hon. J. R. De C. Boscawen and H. C. Fortescue had also been granted the honorary rank of Major.

The remainder of the Battalion arrived from Oxford on May 15, and, being joined by the recruits, encamped once more on Cove Plateau. Viscount Milton was absent on leave from the training.

The special Militia Brigade, of which the Oxfordshire formed part, consisted of 3rd and 4th Bedfordshire, 4th Oxfordshire, and 7th King's Royal Rifles. The 3rd Bedford and 7th King's Royal Rifles were old friends in camp.

The Brigade was commanded by Colonel Middleton (late of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment), with Major Carleton (of the Durham Light Infantry) as Brigade Major.

On May 24 the Battalion took part in the Queen's Birthday

Parade, and was the second strongest battalion of infantry in the field, the 7th King's Royal Rifles, with an establishment of 1,000 men, being the strongest. The marching of the Militia Brigade, especially in line of quarter columns, was commended for its steadiness by Sir Evelyn Wood.

After a big divisional day on June 6, when the Oxfordshire were in the firing line, the Militia Brigade was formed up before Lord Roberts, who had been watching the proceedings, and subsequently marched past him on the Queen's Parade. He had no previous experience of the Militia force, and expressed himself much impressed with its general efficiency and steadiness.

The weather had been uniformly fine, and the training one of quiet drill and instruction in Brigade duties, including the usual course of musketry on the Ash ranges, where the Battalion distinguished itself by obtaining the highest figure of merit of all the Battalions training during the season at Aldershot, the classification being 'very good.' This success was undoubtedly due in great measure to the keen interest taken in his work by Captain Withington, the instructor of musketry.

C Company, under the command of Major C. J. Boyle, obtained the highest figure of merit, and it had already become evident that the institution of a challenge prize caused the men to take a greater interest in target shooting than they had previously done. The officers' prize was also won, for the second time, by Major Boyle, and the running cup by Lieutenant O. U. Holt Needham.

On June 10 the Battalion returned to Cowley Barracks, and the men were paid off and dismissed to their homes.

A further change had been again made by Major Willan, with Colonel Bulkeley's approval, in the canteen arrangements. The beer canteen, which had always hitherto been let to a firm of brewers, was now taken into regimental control, with the result of improved liquor and management being combined with a considerably increased profit to the fund.

1894.

In December, 1893, Lieutenant Viscount Milton had been seconded whilst holding the appointment of A.D.C. to the

Viceroy of India, and, before the Battalion assembled for training, many changes had taken place among the officers. Captain Warner had been granted the honorary rank of Major; 2nd Lieutenants M. W. G. Rowley Conway, R. H. W. Brewis, and O. U. Holt Needham (late Needham Holt) had been promoted Lieutenants; Lieutenants Talbot and Douglas Scott had resigned their commissions, and T. H. Rivers Bulkeley (a son of the Commanding Officer), R. B. Brassey, Alastair Hamilton, and L. E. H. M. Darell had been appointed 2nd Lieutenants.

On March 9 Major H. A. Adair, who had been Adjutant since 1885, was placed on a retired allowance, and was succeeded by Captain E. A. E. Lethbridge (from the 1st Battalion).

The Battalion assembled at Cowley Barracks on May 7 (the usual party of recruits having been already a fortnight at Aldershot), and proceeded into camp on Rushmoor Hill, on the outskirts of the South Camp. The total strength amounted to 24 officers, and 646 non-commissioned officers and men.

The camping ground unfortunately proved a very bad one, and the weather being for the most part very cold and wet, the period of training was not pleasant. The Militia Brigade, which was commanded by Colonel Livesey (of the 43rd Regimental District), consisted of the 3rd Oxfordshire (Bucks Militia), 3rd West Surrey, and 4th Oxfordshire.

Lieutenant and Quartermaster Griffiths had retired, shortly before the training, with the honorary rank of Captain, and, as his successor had not yet joined, the duties of Quartermaster were undertaken by Lieutenant Blyth; duties which he most zealously and efficiently performed under circumstances which would have tried to its utmost the ability of an experienced Quartermaster.

The new Lee-Metford small bore magazine rifles had been issued to the men. They proved splendid weapons, and were a great contrast to the Martini in the matter of recoil, although, in the annual course of musketry, the men fired no better, as they had not yet become accustomed to them. The company which obtained the highest figure of merit during the musketry course was E Company, commanded by Captain Warner.

The officers' cup was won by 2nd Lieutenant Angus McNeill, and the subalterns' race by the same officer.

The principal field days in which the Battalion took part were a review on Laffan's Plain before the Queen on May 17, the Queen's Birthday Parade on the same ground on May 24, and a divisional fight on the Fox Hills six days later. The next day the Militia Brigade was exercised in a thoroughly practical manner by being ordered to form a line of outposts with supports and reserves, extending from the Odiham Road on the left in a northerly direction to Bourley Bottom. The Duke of Connaught, who now commanded the Aldershot Division, was to have inspected the disposition of the Militia Battalions, but, the 3rd West Surrey coming into contact with the enemy, a general action was precipitated before His Royal Highness had carried out his intention.

The annual inspection was conducted by Colonel Livesey, and on June 2 the Battalion returned to Cowley Barracks.

OFFICERS—June, 1894.

Lieut.-Col. and Hon. Col. C. R. Bulkeley.

Major and Hon. Lieut.-Col. A. B. Cook.

" " F. Willan.

Capt. and Hon. Major W. J. L. Heriot.

" " Sir G. J. E. Dashwood, Bart. (late
Scots Guards).

Capt. and Hon. Major C. H. B. Williams.

" " C. J. Boyle (late 2nd Battalion).

" " Hon. J. R. de C. Boscawen.

" " H. C. Fortescue.

" " T. C. T. Warner.

Capt. F. E. Withington.

Lieut. J. H. Upton-Cottrell-Dormer.

" R. W. Doyne.

" J. Blyth.

" R. P. Pulteney.

" E. A. S. O'Brien.

" W. C. de M. Viscount Milton (seconded).

" M. W. G. Rowley Conway.

" R. H. W. Brewis.

Lieut. G. N. Holt Needham.

2nd Lieut. A. J. McNeill.

„ T. H. R. Bulkeley.

„ R. B. Brassey.

„ A. Hamilton.

„ L. E. H. M. Darell.

Instr. of Musketry F. E. Withington, Capt.

Adjutant E. A. E. Lethbridge, Capt. (2nd Battalion).

Quartermaster G. A. Hirst, Hon. Capt.

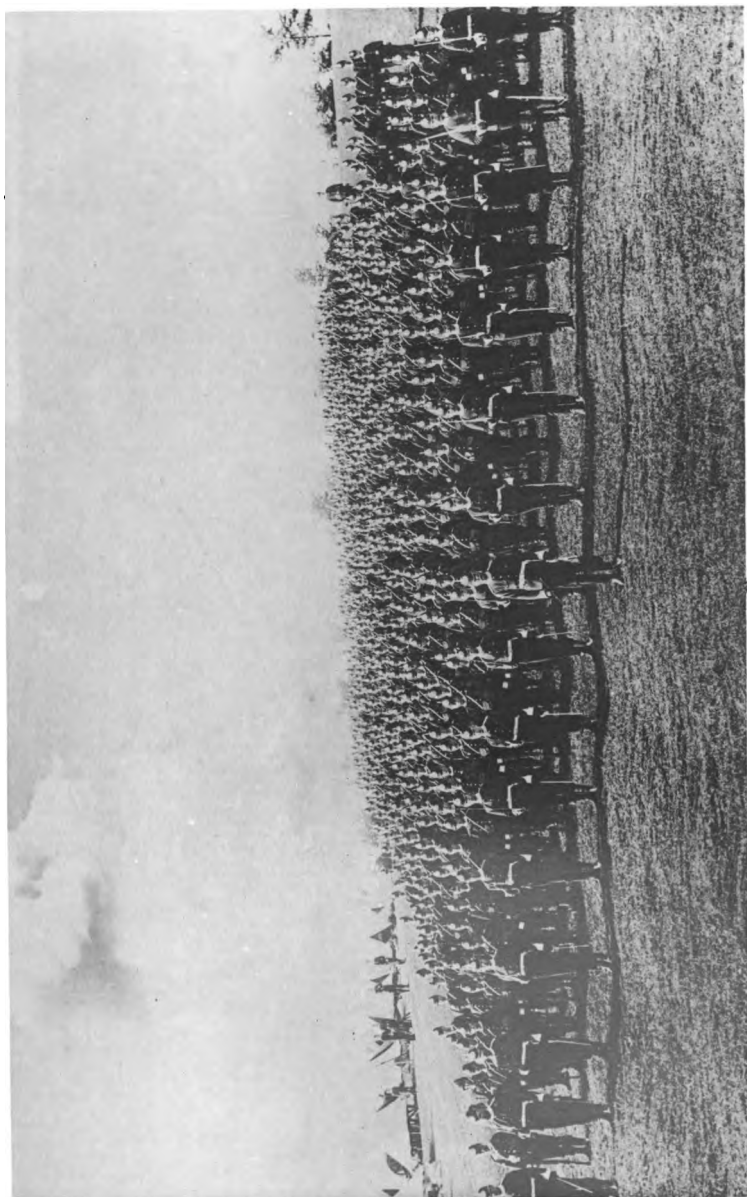
1895.

An entirely new departure was taken this year, in consequence of the great demands made upon the range accommodation at Aldershot, by the course of musketry being carried out on the Bisley ranges of the National Rifle Association.

The Battalion arrived from Oxford at Cowshott Manor on June 6, being joined there by the party of recruits who had been, as usual, at Aldershot for a fortnight, under the Adjutant and other officers. The Militia Brigade camp consisted of four battalions—3rd Leicester, 3rd Wilts, 7th Rifle Brigade, and 4th Oxford, under Colonel Collingwood; and the tents were pitched in two grass fields between the Guards' camp and the grounds of the National Rifle Association.

Quartermaster Griffiths, as already stated, had retired with the honorary rank of Captain, and a new Quartermaster, Captain G. A. Hirst (from the 2nd Battalion), had taken up his duties. Fresh from the work of Quartermaster of the 52nd in India, he brought so much energy and capacity for organization to bear upon the camp arrangements that considerable improvement was soon apparent.

Several other changes had taken place among the officers since last training. Lieutenant Doyne had been seconded for service with the British South Africa Company. Lieutenant E. A. S. O'Brien had joined the 8th Hussars. Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. Cook, Captain and Hon. Major Hon. J. R. de C. Boscawen, and Captain J. H. Upton-Cottrell-Dormer had resigned their commissions. Lieutenant Doyne (seconded) and Lieutenant Blyth had been promoted Captains; 2nd



THE BATTALION
1895

To face p. 144

Lieutenants A. J. McNeill and T. H. R. Bulkeley advanced to the rank of Lieutenants, while W. R. Shute Barrington had been gazetted a 2nd Lieutenant, and the Earl of Kerry 2nd Lieutenant Supernumerary.

The range (an enormous butt with ninety targets), upon which the Brigade was exercised in musketry, was only a few minutes' march from the camp, and, the weather proving uniformly fine, the course was satisfactorily carried out.

The best shooting company proved to be C Company, under the command of Lieutenant Viscount Milton, but, in consequence of the time for the carrying out of the musketry course being so short, no competition for the officers' cup was possible.

On May 14 'A' Company, under Major Sir G. Dashwood, proceeded to Aldershot to get the camp on Cove Plateau ready for the remainder of the Battalion, and the next day the whole Militia Brigade marched over the Fox Hills to Aldershot to complete the rest of its training in the North Camp. The camp at Cowshott was left standing, to be occupied in turn by another Brigade of Militia.

On May 22 the Brigade was exercised, under Colonel Collingwood, in a very practical disposition of outposts upon the south-east side of the Fox Hills; H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught making an inspection of the positions taken up by the different Battalions. The Queen's Birthday Parade was held as usual on May 24 on Laffan's Plain, and the improvement produced in the appearance of the Militia by the helmets which had this year been issued to them was very marked. Helmets had at last been given as a permanent part of the equipment, and the incongruous appearance presented in review order by the officers and staff-sergeants wearing helmets, and the rank and file glengarries, was a thing of the past.

After a field day, in which the 2nd Regular Brigade and Militia Brigade took part, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught expressed his pleasure at the way in which the Militia Battalions had acquitted themselves, and particularly remarked on the very strong position occupied by the 4th Oxfordshire at the conclusion of the fight.

A satisfactory inspection having been made by the Brigadier, the Battalion returned on June 1 to Cowley Barracks for dismissal.

During this training, by order of the Duke of Connaught, the officers discarded the white sword knots hitherto worn by them, and adopted the black knot used by the two Line Battalions; the gold sword knot, however, was still to be worn at levees and in review order.

During the training the usual foot race had been run by the subaltern officers, and Lieutenant T. H. R. Bulkeley succeeded in carrying off his father's cup.

1896.

A manœuvre bill had been introduced into Parliament to enable the authorities, under certain conditions and restrictions, to exercise troops over the land of private owners and pay compensation for damage. Such a measure had become a necessity, if any opportunities were to be afforded to general officers, for the tactical handling of large bodies of troops away from the well-known and well-worn Government manœuvre grounds at Aldershot and similar camps. The bill, however, did not become law in time for the more extended manœuvres which were in contemplation for the autumn of 1896.

The consequence was that the 30,000 or 35,000 men, who were concentrated for exercise in the autumn, were once more confined to the familiar battle-grounds of Wolmer, Aldershot, and Chobham.

The 4th Oxfordshire were under orders to train again at Aldershot, the training to be extended to five weeks, the last fortnight to be employed in taking part in the manœuvres with the regular troops. On July 27, therefore, the recruits of the Battalion, together with 11 officers and the permanent staff, numbering in all about 250, arrived at Aldershot from Oxford, and were encamped on the north end of Rushmoor Green, in the South Camp. Here, for the next fortnight, the party were engaged, under the superintendence of Captain Withington, the Musketry Instructor, in completing the usual

recruits' course of musketry ; the firing being carried out at the Ash ranges.

On August 10 the remainder of the Battalion arrived from Cowley Barracks, and soon settled down into a comfortable and well-pitched camp ; a camp however destined, in consequence of the wet weather which prevailed during the last fortnight, to become a sea of mud and anything but comfortable or healthy.

More changes than usual had taken place among the officers. Captains Boyle and Williams, and Lieutenant Holt Needham had resigned their commissions ; Lieutenant A. J. McNeill had joined the Seaforth Highlanders, R. H. W. Brewis the Royal Warwick, and 2nd Lieutenant the Earl of Kerry the Grenadier Guards. Lieutenant M. G. W. Rowley Conway had been promoted Captain, 2nd Lieutenant W. R. S. Barrington Lieutenant, and no less than eight 2nd Lieutenants had been appointed to the Battalion, viz. F. G. Willan (a son of the senior Major), Lord Aberdour, C. F. Henley, A. G. McClintock, G. F. Brooke, T. D. Jackson, G. M. Ponsonby, and J. N. Price Wood. The last named, however, resigned his commission in a few months, and did not come out for training.

Sixteen Battalions of Militia, all brought to Aldershot for their annual training and participation in the coming manoeuvres, were now organized in two divisions of two Brigades each. The regulars in camp were formed into three divisions. Lord William Seymour commanded the 5th Division ; and the 10th Brigade, which consisted of the 7th Battalion King's Royal Rifles, 5th and 7th Battalions Rifle Brigade, and 4th Oxfordshire Light Infantry, had for its Brigadier Colonel E. T. H. Hutton, C.B., Major Hon. A. S. Hardinge (of the Royal Scots Fusiliers) being Brigade Major¹.

The first work on which the Battalion was engaged was the series of musketry preliminary drills, which were per-

¹ He met with a fatal accident in June, 1899, when he was thrown from his horse coming out of the Park at Hyde Park Corner, falling on his head and never after recovering consciousness. He was a smart officer, who knew his work and did it without worrying or fussing any one. Many of us will long remember his cheery manner and amusing stories.

formed at Rushmoor, but on August 17 the 10th Brigade marched to Cowshott Manor in order to do its firing at the Bisley ranges, returning on the evening of the 20th to Aldershot. The practice at Bisley was not very good, as the time allowed for putting through four rather strong battalions was short, and the firing was hurried.

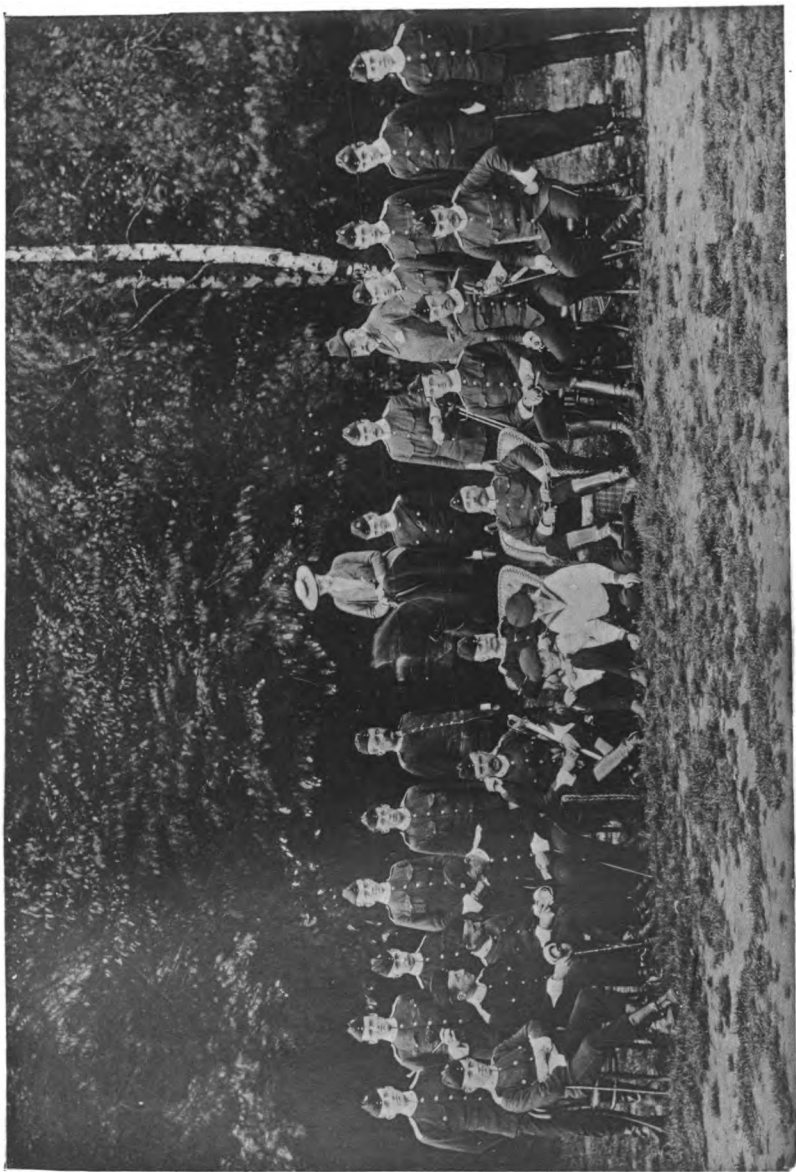
The champion company was letter G Company, commanded by Major Fortescue, and the Adjutant, Captain Lethbridge, proved to be the best shot among the officers.

The rest of the training under Colonel Hutton, who took a very active and real interest in the Militia, was of a practical and progressive character, and on August 31 the participation in the manœuvres by the Militia Divisions commenced.

After this there were some heavy marches and big fights, notably those upon the Fox Hills and Chobham ridges, in the former of which the two Militia Divisions gained much kudos from the military authorities and public press for their steadiness and general ability for manœuvre in the field.

The most interesting of the operations was a big night attack on September 8, made by the greater part of the troops upon an enemy posted in a strong position on the Fox Hills. The 5th Division marched about 10 p.m. from the South Camp, and proceeding through Aldershot town and Ash, took up a position on the edge of the Government ground to the east of the Fox Hills soon after midnight. After passing Ash a fearful thunderstorm, with vivid lightning and torrents of rain, was experienced, and the low ground upon which the 10th Brigade formed up was extremely wet. Officers and men, however, threw themselves upon the ground in their greatcoats, and the majority were soon sound asleep, thoroughly tired out by the march, and a field day which they had previously taken part in near Farnham during the morning.

The mounted officers had, at a certain point in the march, sent their horses back to camp under the charge of grooms, and subsequently proceeded on foot. The night was very dark, but while taking up the allotted positions the attacking troops came under the fire of the outposts of the enemy. No reply, however, was made, and complete silence being the



GROUP OF OFFICERS
1896

To face p. 148

order of the night, stillness soon reigned over the whole force; it being hard to realize that something like 20,000 men were lying in position for attack.

About an hour before daylight the Brigade was aroused by whispered orders and fell in. The advance was made in line of quarter columns, the battalions being formed in double companies at ten paces distance. A light rope was used upon each flank, and held by the guides to secure the direction being maintained and the distance being preserved between companies. The Brigade Major and Sergeants who led the Brigade carried wooden discs covered with luminous paint, and the Brigadier had also a luminous band round his cap, which looked very much like a will o' the wisp flitting about.

After advancing a short distance at a very slow pace the Brigade halted, not by word of command, but by touch, and the battalions and double companies were dressed as much as possible and restored to their proper order by the officers passing silently along the ranks.

In this manner the advance continued, and just as daylight was appearing the rising ground was surmounted, and the defenders on the hills above, having discovered the columns ascending from the valley, opened with their artillery.

The sight was a beautiful and impressive one. The storm of the previous night had caused a heavy mist to rise over the low ground, and it was impossible to avoid calling to mind the description given of the masses of grey-coated Russians climbing up through the mist for the assault on the heights of Inkermann. Those who were on the high ground as privileged spectators stated that the scene was a very realistic one when the assaulting columns could gradually be made out, toiling up the ravines.

The 10th Brigade, after gaining the summit, swung round to the right (where it could be seen from the flashes of the defenders' guns that the bulk of the enemy was posted), and deployed in attack formation. Shortly afterwards, however, the bugles sounded 'cease fire,' and the troops marched home, arriving in camp about 7 a.m. thoroughly tired out.

The weather during the last fortnight of the training was cold and wet, causing much discomfort, as most of the field

days resulted in a wet jacket, and the camp was in a very muddy state.

The annual inspection, conducted by the Brigadier, Colonel Hutton, consisted of little but the examination of the regimental books, as he had seen so much of the Battalion in the field during the last month.

Again this year there were changes in uniform. A plain mess jacket with rolled collar was introduced as universal for the line; brass sword scabbards for infantry field officers, as also brass spurs, were abolished, and the sword belt was, by order, to be in future worn underneath the scarlet patrol jacket. A new pattern sword had also been adopted, but Militia officers were allowed to have their swords of the present pattern rehilted only. A new equipment had been issued to the men, consisting of valises and buff leather belts and straps of the 1888 pattern. These had been partly worn by the Royal Marines, but were in serviceable condition, and the pipe-clayed belts were a decided improvement over the brown leather ones, which had become distinctly shabby.

The subalterns' usual race for the Bulkeley Challenge Cup was won, during the training, by Lieutenant W. R. S. Barrington.

On September 12 the Battalion returned to Cowley Barracks.

OFFICERS—September, 1896.

Lieut.-Col. and Hon. Col. C. R. Bulkeley.

Major and Hon. Lieut.-Col. F. Willan.

" " W. J. L. Heriot.

Capt. and Hon. Major Sir G. J. E. Dashwood, Bart. (late Scots Guards).

Capt. and Hon. Major H. C. Fortescue.

" " T. C. T. Warner.

Capt. F. E. Withington.

" R. W. Doyne (seconded).

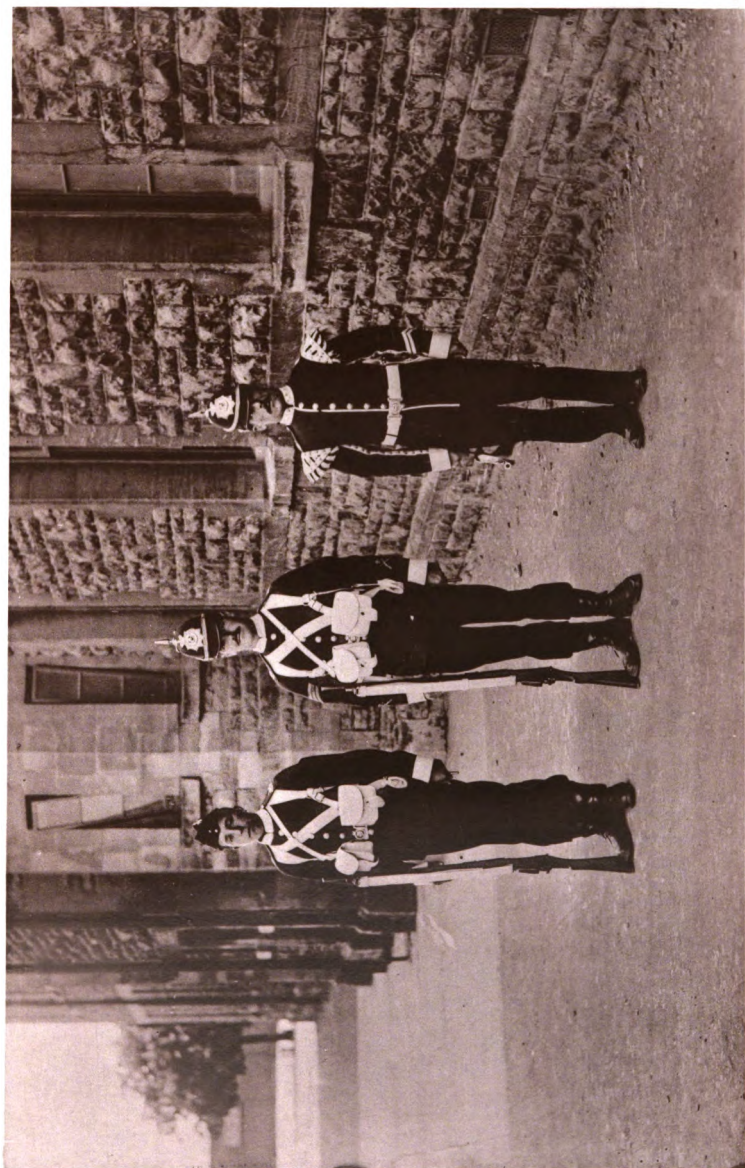
" J. Blyth.

" R. P. Pulteney.

" W. C. de M. Viscount Milton.

" M. W. G. Rowley Conway.

Lieut. T. H. R. Bulkeley.



UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT
1896

To face p. 150

Lieut. R. B. Brassey.

„ A. Hamilton.

„ L. E. H. M. Darell.

„ W. R. S. Barrington.

„ C. F. Henley.

„ F. G. Willan.

2nd Lieut. T. D. Jackson.

„ G. M. Ponsonby.

„ A. G. McClintock.

„ G. F. Brooke.

„ S. C. W. Lord Aberdour.

Instr. of Musketry F. E. Withington, Capt.

Adjutant E. A. E. Lethbridge, Capt. (2nd Battalion).

Quartermaster G. A. Hirst, Hon. Capt.

1897.

Shortly after the training of last year Colonel Bulkeley's period of command (under paragraph 44, 1898, of the Militia Regulations) expired, and he was granted an extension of five years.

Lieutenant-Colonels Willan and Heriot, having attained the age of fifty, came also under the provisions of paragraph 78, with regard to retirement, but the former was fortunate enough to obtain an extension of five years. The latter, who had served in the Battalion for twenty-three years, was forced to retire, much regretted by all his brother officers.

Captain and Hon. Major Sir G. Dashwood and Captain Rowley Conway resigned their commissions. Captain and Hon. Major Fortescue was promoted Major, vice Heriot, Lieutenant W. R. S. Barrington Captain, 2nd Lieutenants T. D. Jackson, G. M. Ponsonby, and F. G. Willan Lieutenant; two vacancies being filled by the appointment, as 2nd Lieutenants, of C. H. Browning and Lord Aberdour. Captain Lethbridge had also resigned the post of Adjutant, and Captain R. G. H. Hughes had been appointed in his place from the 2nd Battalion.

For the last seventeen years the annual training of the Battalion had been conducted at Aldershot, and therefore, when it became known that the camp was this year to be

pitched at Churn, the announcement of a change of quarters came quite as a surprise to all concerned.

Churn is a spot on the Berkshire Downs between the villages of Compton and Blewbury. The Didcot and Newbury Junction Railway runs close to the camping ground, and there is a siding on the line which, when troops are encamped in the neighbourhood, is elevated to the dignity of a station, a matter of great convenience.

Considerable cavalry manoeuvres were held here some few years ago, and the camping ground, on fine old turf with an excellent supply of water, leaves nothing to be desired.

There is a good and safe rifle range at the back of the camp, and the musketry course therefore was carried out under favourable conditions. The only drawback was the distance from any town where necessities could be obtained, the villages round providing little or nothing.

The camp consisted of the Royal Berks and 3rd and 4th Oxfordshire Light Infantry, brigaded together under the command of Colonel Howard Kingscote (of the 43rd Regimental District), who made the Mess of the 4th Oxfordshire his home during the training.

The recruits, under the Adjutant, Musketry Instructor, and a few other subaltern officers, went into camp on April 26, for their preliminary course of musketry, and the remainder of the Battalion arrived on the afternoon of May 10, having previously assembled at Cowley Barracks.

The weather was very cold for the first few days. There was frost at night, and during the day a bitter wind swept across the downs, from which there was no escape. The Battalion was very weak, the strength being only 23 officers, 34 sergeants, and 463 rank and file. There was nothing to interrupt the steady course of musketry and battalion drill, and the shooting improved in consequence, the company challenge cup being taken by A Company, under command of Lieutenant T. H. R. Bulkeley. The formal inspection by Colonel Kingscote took place on June 2, and on the following day Lord Methuen (the General commanding the Home District) came down from London and made a searching



UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT
1896

To face p. 152

inspection of the Brigade, as well as all the arrangements of the camp.

A great deal of football had been played during the training, as there was ample space, and the weather on the whole cold enough to make the game a pleasant pastime. Colonel Bulkeley had presented a challenge shield to be competed for by the companies, and the ties for this were fought out with much spirit. During the last week Brigade sports were organized and brought to a fairly successful conclusion.

As might have been expected, from the fact that the three Battalions of the Brigade belonged to neighbouring counties and were well acquainted with each other, peace and good fellowship were the order of the day from start to finish. On June 5 they departed by train for their respective headquarters, and the men were once more dismissed to their homes.

Lieutenant F. G. Willan had, during the training, won the officers' shooting prize, and Lieutenant T. H. R. Bulkeley that for running.

OFFICERS—June, 1897.

Colonel C. R. Bulkeley.

Major and Hon. Lieut.-Col. F. Willan.

Major H. C. Fortescue.

Captain and Hon. Major T. C. T. Warner.

Captain F. E. Withington.

„ R. W. Doyne.

„ J. Blyth.

„ R. P. Pulteney.

„ W. C. de M. Viscount Milton.

„ W. R. S. Barrington.

Lieutenant T. H. R. Bulkeley.

„ R. B. Brassey.

„ A. Hamilton.

„ L. E. H. M. Darell.

„ C. F. Henley.

„ F. G. Willan.

„ T. D. Jackson.

„ G. M. Ponsonby.

2nd Lieutenant A. G. McClintock.

2nd Lieutenant G. F. Brooke.

„ S. C. W. Lord Aberdour.

„ C. H. Browning.

Instr. of Musketry F. E. Withington, Captain.

Adjutant R. G. Hughes, Capt. (2nd Battalion).

Quartermaster G. A. Hirst, Hon. Captain.

1898.

The Battalion had been very short of men during the training at Churn last year, and since that time not only had recruiting been bad, but a large number of the men who did enlist purchased their discharges shortly afterwards. The 'strength' was therefore becoming small by degrees and beautifully, or at any rate manifestly, less.

To counteract this undesirable state of things the military authorities determined to try the experiment of calling out the Battalion for training at Oxford in May, but they were met by the difficulty of obtaining a camping ground, as the field at the rear of the barracks was too small.

Mr. G. H. Morrell, member for South Oxfordshire, proved a friend in need at this juncture, and placed part of his park just outside the city at the disposal of the War Office. The camp was accordingly pitched in the South Park, Headington, and the old hands of the Battalion marched in from Cowley Barracks on May 9.

The enrolled strength at this date was 22 officers, 15 sergeants, 21 corporals, and 453 privates.

The site was an exceedingly pleasant and convenient one, but, unfortunately, the weather was rather cold and wet. The recruits had been encamped previously for a fortnight, under the Adjutant and a few junior officers, for a course of musketry at Churn, and they had returned to the Headington camp on May 7. As there was no range in the neighbourhood of Oxford where the men could fire, the musketry preliminary drills were performed in camp, and then each half battalion in turn proceeded by train to Churn for three days' firing; occupying a standing camp there, which was used also by the Royal Berkshire Militia for the same purpose.

D Company, commanded by Captain Barrington, obtained the highest figure of merit, and the cup was won by the Quartermaster, Captain Hirst.

Nothing occurred to interrupt the steady routine of company and battalion drill, varied by an occasional march out, except one field day which was organized in conjunction with the University Volunteers.

The Battalion marched out to Nuneham Park, bivouacked and had dinner, the Volunteers meanwhile proceeding by train to Culham. It had been arranged that they were to enter the park from that end, and attack the Militia when found. The latter started at the specified time, but, owing to the Volunteers being late, the Battalion had advanced in attack formation across the larger portion of the park before coming in contact with the University men. In consequence of this, and the fact that the front was ridiculously narrow, the fight soon became a farce, and the two forces were locked together in that close contact which in real war would mean a terrible amount of lead and cold steel.

The Oxfordshire Yeomanry were training in the city, under Viscount Valentia, during part of the time, and there was an interchange of hospitality between the officers of the two corps. The Mayor of Oxford, the Vice-Chancellor, and several other prominent citizens and University dignitaries also honoured the Mess with their presence at dinner.

The Dean of Christ Church had kindly made arrangements for a special service at the cathedral, and on Sunday, May 25, the Battalion paraded as strong as possible and marched down, headed by the band and bugles, to divine service. The men were seated in the nave and the officers in the north transept. A beautiful choral service was rendered by the cathedral choir, and the Dean preached an appropriate sermon. A large number of people attended in addition to the Militia, and both officers and men felt gratified at being afforded the opportunity of performing their weekly devotions in the grand old cathedral church of the Oxford diocese.

Before the Battalion was dismissed, some very successful sports for the men were organized, Colonel Morrell adding yet another to his many acts of kindness and consideration

by contributing a large sum to the prize fund. A first-rate donkey race for officers in costume proved to be not the least attractive and amusing of the many items of the programme. The officers' race was won by Lieutenant Darell.

The regular inspection was carried out by Colonel H. Kingscote (commanding the 43rd Regimental District), and on June 4 the officers and men were once again dismissed to their homes.

The flow of young officers through the Militia into the regular army is no doubt an excellent means of meeting the demand in the commissioned ranks, but it certainly is not an unmixed blessing for regiments of Militia.

The facilities for entering the army through the Militia do, no doubt, attract a great many young gentlemen who would not otherwise accept commissions in it, and therefore the subaltern ranks are maintained at a fair strength in some corps, which would otherwise experience difficulty in obtaining officers. The effect, however, of this kind of filtering through the Militia is that by far the larger proportion of young officers leave for the regular army within three years of their appointment, and just at the time when the senior officers have got to know them, and they too have become settled in the Battalion. Some of course fail to pass the necessary examinations and remain in the Militia, making good officers in spite of their failure.

It is a matter for congratulation that the popularity of the Oxfordshire Militia has always been so great that at no time has there ever been any difficulty, as is the case with many battalions, in maintaining a full complement of officers, there being generally one or more young men waiting for a vacancy.

Since the training of 1897 there had been an even larger exodus of subalterns to the regular army than usual; no less than five having obtained commissions.

R. B. Brassey had joined the 17th Lancers, T. D. Jackson the Royal Lancaster Regiment, G. F. Brooke the Connaught Rangers, C. F. Henley the Oxfordshire Light Infantry, and G. M. Ponsonby the Warwickshire Regiment.

In place of these young officers three 2nd Lieutenants had

been appointed, the Hon. H. Grosvenor, R. R. M. Brooke, and J. H. J. McClintock.

OFFICERS—June, 1898.

Colonel C. R. Bulkeley.

Major and Hon. Lieut.-Col. F. Willan.

Major H. C. Fortescue.

Capt. and Hon. Major T. C. T. Warner.

Capt. F. E. Withington.

„ J. Blyth.

„ R. P. Pulteney.

„ W. C. de M. Viscount Milton.

„ W. R. S. Barrington.

Lieut. T. H. R. Bulkeley.

„ A. Hamilton.

„ L. E. H. M. Darell.

„ F. G. Willan.

„ G. M. Ponsonby.

„ A. G. McClintock.

„ S. C. W. Lord Aberdour.

2nd Lieut. C. H. Browning.

„ Hon. H. Grosvenor.

„ R. R. M. Brooke.

„ J. H. J. McClintock.

„ A. K. North.

Instr. of Musketry T. H. R. Bulkeley, Lieut.

Adjutant R. G. H. Hughes, Capt. (2nd Batt.).

Quartermaster G. A. Hirst, Hon. Capt.

Captain Withington was absent from the training on sick leave.

1899.

In 1898 extensive manœuvres were held in the south of England, chiefly on Salisbury Plain, a large portion of which had been purchased by the Government for a manœuvre ground; and this year the tactical training of a large body of troops was to be repeated in the same district, though not upon such a large scale.

The manœuvres were divided into two parts, both as regards time and the troops engaged in them, two periods of

five weeks each being taken for the progressive training, and two divisions of infantry being employed in each period.

In addition to these a large force of cavalry and artillery were engaged for some weeks in tactical training as independent forces, ninety guns being on some occasions brought into line at one time. The cavalry and artillery were encamped at the west side of the manœuvre ground, on and about West Down, but the two infantry divisions were about ten miles off on the extreme east side, at Bulford and Perham, which places were six miles apart. The difficulty experienced with the water supply in the previous year had been overcome by sinking deep wells in the chalk, and in both camps there was an unlimited supply of good water.

The 4th Oxfordshire had been told off as one of the sixteen Militia corps to take part in the manœuvres, and on July 31 the Battalion arrived at Ludgershall station and marched into Perham Down camp, for its five weeks' training in the second period.

The Perham or 3rd Division was under the command of General Sir Leslie Rundle, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. (of Egyptian fame), and was composed of the 5th and 6th Brigades. The 6th Brigade, commanded by Colonel H. S. G. Miles, M.V.O., with Captain H. G. C. Phillips (of the Welsh Regiment) as his Brigade Major, comprised the 1st Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 2nd South Wales Borderers, 3rd Worcestershire, and 4th Oxfordshire. The two regular Battalions were fairly strong, but the Worcestershire Militia, with about 700 men, were the strongest in the Brigade, which numbered in all about 2,570.

The 5th Brigade was made up of the 1st Grenadier Guards (a very fine battalion), 2nd Scots Guards, and 3rd Somerset and 3rd Middlesex Militias, about 2,420 men.

At first there was neither cavalry nor artillery with the Divisions, but when their camp of exercise was broken up, each Division was joined by three field batteries and a troop of dragoons for scouting purposes. There was also a large force of the Army Medical Corps and Bearer Companies, with two field and two stationary hospitals in each camp.

As there were no rifle ranges in the vicinity of Perham Down, the recruits' musketry course had to be carried out at

Bulford Camp, near which the ranges were situated. Six officers and 136 non-commissioned officers and men had been there for a fortnight previous to the assembly of the rest of the Battalion attached to the 2nd Division, under Sir W. F. Gatacre, K.C.B., D.S.O., and, having completed their work, they marched over to Perham Camp on July 29.

Weak as the Battalion was when training at Oxford last year, it was now weaker, the total being 21 officers and 353 non-commissioned officers and men, a decrease of 126 in fourteen months. Since April 1 the number of companies had been reduced to six, some other weak Militia Battalions having also had their establishment reduced in a similar manner.

The Militia had been going down in numbers for several years, nearly all over the United Kingdom, in consequence probably of a combination of causes. First, the great popularity of the Volunteer force, many men who used to join the Militia now going into the Volunteers. Secondly, the general prosperity throughout the country and the abundance of work. Thirdly, the ease with which the men can purchase their discharges. And, fourthly, the hard work and severe trainings to which most of the battalions have been subjected during the last few years. The Worcestershire Militia was a fairly strong one, but the 3rd Somerset and 3rd Middlesex were very weak. The future of the Militia force is a difficult problem for the military authorities, and threats have been made that the ballot will be applied in some form, if sufficient men are not forthcoming.

Since the last training the following subalterns had joined the regular army—T. H. R. Bulkeley obtaining a commission in the Scots Guards, F. G. Willan in the King's Royal Rifles, L. E. H. M. Darell in the 1st Life Guards, and C. H. Browning in the Royal Artillery.

Captain F. E. Withington had also been obliged, through ill-health, to resign his commission, much to the regret of his brother officers.

The vacancies had been filled by the appointment of five 2nd Lieutenants—A. R. T. Cartwright, W. A. Kevill-Davies, Hon. C. W. S. Douglas (a brother of Lord Aberdour), Hon. A.

Annesley (son of Viscount Valentia, the popular Colonel of the Oxfordshire Yeomanry and M.P. for the city of Oxford), and S. G. R. White. Kevill-Davies, however, resigned his commission before the training, and Douglas was absent from it on leave. All the officers, with this one exception, were present.

An extremely handsome and useful gift was received by the Mess President, shortly after arrival at Perham, from ten young officers who had lately left the Regiment. It consisted of four silver jardinières of tasteful design, and they formed a most acceptable addition to the Mess plate.

The camp was conveniently and pleasantly situated, facing the Brigade parade ground, and the men for the first time enjoyed the benefit of the new pattern ridge pole tents, lately introduced. The tents each held twenty-four men, and, with boarded floors, were very comfortable.

Of steady company and battalion drill there was scarcely any, for even during the first week the Battalion was taken out in Brigade to practise a somewhat new form of attack, known as General Bengough's. The second week was devoted to musketry drills, and on Friday, August 11, the Battalion marched over to Bulford Camp, occupying the tents lately vacated by another corps.

The ranges were on the open down about a mile off, and the weather, although extremely hot, was on the whole favourable for firing. A decided improvement was effected in the Battalion figure of merit, both the individual and collective practices being higher by four points; the percentages of marksmen being much larger, and of third-class shots much smaller, than those of last year. The men, with very few exceptions, appeared to take an interest in their work, and the competition for the company challenge bowl was keen. This trophy was carried off by D Company, under the command of Captain Barrington, who also won the officers' cup with a good score.

Since the last training four officers had been through a course of musketry at Hythe. Both the Majors, Lieutenant-Colonels Willan and Fortescue, and Captains Blyth and Barrington obtained certificates, the former passing out first in order of merit in a class of seventy-nine officers.

On August 15, just as the camp had been struck and nearly all the baggage placed on waggons, preparatory to marching back to Perham, a very severe thunderstorm broke with rain of quite a tropical character, and continued for about an hour. One half battalion was still on the range, and officers and men were soaked to the skin. The others were not much better off, and all presented a wretched appearance when they marched about 4 p.m. To add to the subsequent discomfort, the 'steam sapper,' which was drawing the trucks loaded with baggage and the men's blankets, stuck during the night and only turned up in camp at nine the next morning. The 16th fortunately proved a very fine day and the deluge was soon forgotten, the camp, however, presenting the appearance of a laundry ground.

During the next ten days tactical exercises were carried out, first by the brigades acting either separately or in opposition to each other, and afterwards by the whole divisions manœuvring according to some special idea. No very long marches were undertaken, twelve or thirteen miles being probably the greatest amount of ground covered. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of the fifth week were devoted to field days on a larger scale, the Bulford and Perham divisions being engaged in combat; but the weather which had hitherto been extremely hot and dry began to break, and the troops got a good ducking on the first two days.

The field of battle was of a very different character to that which surrounds Aldershot, and it was quite a treat to work over ground the features of which were not so familiar as those well-worn hills and vales.

There can be no doubt that the manœuvres were practical and instructive, but the presence of an adequate force of cavalry on both sides would have added much interest to the proceedings. The almost entire absence of cavalry caused an equal absence of that fear of this ubiquitous force which is such a wholesome one in the tactical training of infantry and artillery.

The inevitable march past of the two divisions—sixteen battalions of infantry, six batteries of field artillery, and one squadron of cavalry—took place before General Sir Mansfield Clarke on the conclusion of the fight on the last day.

On August 31 the battalion was subjected to the usual inspection by the Brigadier, who afterwards addressed a few words to the men in commendation of their conduct in camp and active work in the field.

On September 2 it left at 6 a.m. for Oxford, and the men were paid off the same day.

OFFICERS—August, 1899.

Col. C. R. Bulkeley.

Major and Hon. Lieut.-Col. F. Willan.

H. C. Fortescue.

Capt. and Hon. Major T. C. T. Warner.

Capt. J. Blyth.

„ R. P. Pulteney.

„ W. C. de M. Viscount Milton.

„ W. R. S. Barrington.

„ A. Hamilton.

„ S. C. W. Lord Aberdour.

Lieut. A. G. McClintock.

„ Hon. H. Grosvenor.

„ R. R. M. Brooke.

„ J. H. J. McClintock.

„ A. K. North.

2nd Lieut. A. R. T. Cartwright.

„ Hon. A. Annesley.

„ S. G. R. White.

„ Hon. C. W. S. Douglas.

Instr. of Musketry Lord Aberdour, Capt.

Adjutant R. G. H. Hughes, Capt. 2nd Battalion.

Quartermaster G. A. Hirst, Hon. Capt.

The Hon. C. W. S. Douglas was absent from the training on leave.

Before concluding this imperfect history of the regiment there is one important change in the status of the Militia force, introduced this year, which should be here recorded, viz. the formation of the Special Service Section of the Militia.

By a Royal Warrant, dated May 10, 1899, the following rules for this Special Service Section were promulgated:—

1. The Special Service Section of the Militia will be com-

posed of (1) militiamen who have engaged for special service in any part of the world with their Militia unit, that unit being a Militia unit registered as available for special service; and (2) individual militiamen who have engaged for special service with the regular forces.

2. A Militia unit may be registered as available for special service if not less than 75 per cent. of the total number of officers, and not less than a similar proportion of the total number of men present at the training make a voluntary offer, certified by the commanding officer, to engage for special service in any part of the world, and, if after such examination as is mentioned in paragraph 4, it appears that of the men who have so offered, 500 at least in the case of infantry, and 250 at least in the case of artillery, possess the necessary qualifications.

The qualifications mentioned in paragraph 4 are, that the men must be between 19 and 45 years of age if engaging to serve with their own unit, or 20 and 34 years if with the regular forces; must have served two annual trainings; must have at least one year more to serve; must fulfil the physical requirements of a recruit in the regular forces, and be medically fit for service in any part of the world.

Men belonging to the Special Service Section are liable to be called upon for twelve months' service in any part of the world, but with their own corps only, unless they volunteer for another. This liability for service exists whether the Militia is embodied or not.

They are allowed at the same time to belong to the Militia Reserve, and for this extra liability for foreign service receive £1 additional bounty.

A man, therefore, who belongs to both the Militia Reserve and Special Service Section will receive, at the conclusion of his training, no less than £3 bounty, or if he be a re-engaged man, £3 10s.

It is too early as yet to foresee what amount of success may be attained by this attempt to form what is practically another Army Reserve at the expense of the Militia generally; but it requires no great amount of perspicuity to see that the condition of a Militia battalion, not itself a Special Service unit,

with all its Militia Reserve and Special Service men called upon to join the regular forces, would be a pitiable one.

No return has as yet been published of the number of units or men who have volunteered and been accepted for special service, but the number of units must be considerably reduced by the fact that many battalions are far below the strength at which they could be accepted, however willing the officers and men might be to volunteer.

The strength of the Oxfordshire Battalion at this year's training precluded any idea of volunteering as a unit, though a few of the men individually volunteered.

LIST OF OFFICERS
WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE
OXFORDSHIRE REGIMENT OF MILITIA,
1778-1899.

* Denotes those now serving.

*ABERDOUR, Sholto Charles, Lord, eldest son of the 21st Earl of Morton, of Conaglen, Ardgour, Argyllshire. 2nd Lieut., 1896; Lieut., 1897; Capt., 1899, and appointed Instructor of Musketry.

ADAIR, H. A., Linton Road, Oxford. Major and Adjutant, 1885; retired, 1894. Previously in 52nd Regiment (2nd Battalion Oxfordshire Light Infantry), and for several years Adjutant of the Somersetshire Militia.

ALSTON, R. T., Ensign, 1811.

ANNESLEY, Hon. Algernon Sydney Arthur, 5 Leinster Gardens, Hyde Park, W. Capt., 1854; Major, 1868; Lieut.-Col. Commandant, 1872; Colonel, 1874; retired, 1891, and appointed Hon. Colonel of the battalion. Previously in the 16th Lancers.

ANNESLEY, A. S. E., eldest son of the above. Lieut., 1884; joined the Rifle Brigade, 1887; now Adjutant of the 20th (Artists) Middlesex Volunteers.

*ANNESLEY, Hon. Arthur, eldest son of Viscount Valentia, Bletchington Park, Oxon, M.P. for Oxford City. 2nd Lieut., 1899.

- ANSTICE, George. Lieut., 1811; Capt., 1814. Died, 1866.
- ARMSTRONG, A. Ensign, 1811.
- ARNEY, Edward Trevor. Ensign, 1857; Lieut., 1858; Capt., 1862; retired 1873. Previously in the Monmouthshire Militia. Dead.
- ASTON, F. W. Ensign, 1855; Lieut., 1857; Capt., 1858. Died, 1864.
- ATHLONE, William, Earl of. Capt., 1806. Died, 1844.
- AULDJO, John Rose, 30 Chester Terrace, Regent's Park. Lieut., 1862; Capt., 1869; resigned, 1874.
- AUSTEN, Henry Thomas. Capt. and Adjt., 1798.
- AUSTEN, Richard Barnes. Ensign, 1855; resigned, 1857.
- BAMPFYLDE, Richard W. Ensign, 1778; Lieut., 1781.
- BARRINGTON, Hon. Percy, now Viscount Barrington, Beckett Park, Shrivenham, D.L. for Oxfordshire. Capt., 1853; resigned, 1857. Previously in the Scots Fusilier Guards.
- BARRINGTON, Hon. Walter Bulkeley, eldest son of the above, Beckett Park, Shrivenham. Capt., 1874; resigned, 1877. Previously in the Coldstream Guards.
- *BARRINGTON, William Richard Shute, eldest son of the above. 2nd Lieut., 1895; Lieut., 1896; Capt., 1897.
- BEAVOR, Herbert. Ensign, 1781.
- BELCHER, R. Lieut., 1808.
- BERNELL, George. Lieut., 1808.
- BERTIE, Willoughby, a grandson of the fourth Earl of Abingdon. Ensign, 1855. Died, 1860.
- BETTERISS, S. S. Lieut., 1807.
- BIGGS, Benjamin Edward. Lieut., 1811.
- BIGNELL, William Philip. Ensign, 1828.
- BIRCH, Azim Salvator. Ensign, 1853; Lieut., 1854. Joined the 44th Regiment (now the 1st Battalion Essex Regiment), 1855.
- BISCOE, J. D. Tyndale, Holton Park, Oxfordshire. Lieut., 1885. Joined 11th Hussars, 1887, and is now a captain in that regiment.
- *BLYTH, James, 68 South Audley Street, W. 2nd Lieut., 1889; Lieut., 1891; Capt., 1895.
- BOSCAWEN, Hon. John R. de Clare, Tregye, Perranwell, Cornwall, third son of the sixth Viscount Falmouth.

- Lieut., 1878; Capt., 1889; Hon. Major, 1893; resigned, 1895.
- BOWLES, Oldfield, North Aston, Oxfordshire. Capt., 1778. He was High Sheriff of the County, 1776, and raised and commanded the North Wootton Division of the Oxfordshire Volunteers, 1803. Died, 1810.
- BOWLES, Charles Oldfield, son of the above. Lieut.-Col., 1821; Colonel, 1847. Died while still Colonel, 1862. He was a D.L. and J.P. for Oxfordshire.
- BOWYER, Henry Atkins. Ensign, 1856; resigned the same year. Afterwards a captain in the 10th Hussars.
- BOYLE, Charles J., Ipsden House, Wallingford. Capt. and Adjt., 1880, having previously been Adjutant of the 2nd Battalion. Resigned his commission in the Army, 1885, and was appointed Captain in the battalion; Hon. Major, 1886; resigned, 1896. Is a J.P. for Oxfordshire.
- BRASSEY, Robert Bingham, eldest son of Albert Brassey, Esq., M.P., Heythrop Park, Chipping Norton. 2nd Lieut., 1894; Lieut., 1896. Joined the 17th Lancers, 1897, in which regiment he is now a 2nd Lieutenant.
- BREWIS, Samuel Richard, Ibstone House, Tetsworth. Lieut., 1866; Capt., 1873; resigned, 1874. Died, 1895.
- BREWIS, Robert Henry Watkin, eldest son of the above. 2nd Lieut., 1892; Lieut., 1894. Joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, 1895, in which he is now a Lieutenant.
- BRINCKMAN, Arthur. Ensign, 1854. Joined the 94th Regiment (now 2nd Battalion Connaught Rangers), 1855.
- BRISCOE, John, Broad Street, Oxford. Assist.-Surgeon, 1861; Surgeon, 1869; retired, 1878, with the honorary rank of Surgeon-Major.
- BROOKE, George F., Ardeen, Shillelagh, County Wicklow. 2nd Lieut., 1896; joined the Connaught Rangers, 1897, in which regiment he is now a Lieutenant. Dangerously wounded on the Tugela River, Transvaal War, December 15, 1899.
- BROOKE, R. R. M., Hybla, Castleknock, County Dublin. 2nd Lieut., 1897; Lieut., 1898. Joined the 1st Battalion, 1899.

- BROWN, Edward Cecil. Ensign, 1855; Lieut., 1857. Joined the 48th Regiment (now the 1st Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment), 1858.
- BROWN, H. F. Darrell. 2nd Lieut., 1887. Joined the Oxfordshire Light Infantry, 1889, in the 2nd Battalion of which regiment he is now a captain.
- BROWN, Thomas Reid. Ensign, 1859; resigned, 1861.
- BROWN, William. Ensign, 1812; Lieut., 1814.
- BROWNING, C. H. 2nd Lieut., 1897. Joined the Royal Artillery, 1898.
- BUCHANAN, Herbert. Ensign, 1855; Lieut., 1858; Capt., 1862; retired, 1873. Previously in the Stirling Militia.
- BUCKLE, George Manly. Ensign, 1859; Lieut., 1862; resigned, 1863.
- *BULKELEY, Charles Rivers, Clewer Lodge, Windsor, now residing at Oak Cottage, Whitchurch, Salop. Ensign, 1858; Lieut., 1859; Capt., 1865; Major, 1874; Lieut.-Col. Commandant, 1891.
- BULKELEY, T. H. Rivers, eldest son of the above. 2nd Lieut., 1893; Lieut., 1894. Joined the Scots Guards, 1899, in the 1st battalion of which regiment he is now a 2nd Lieutenant. Wounded at Belmont in Transvaal War, November 23, 1899.
- BULKELEY, Thomas Frederick. Ensign, 1854; Lieut., 1855; Capt., 1858; resigned, 1862.
- BUSH, John. Capt., 1778.
- BUTLER, William. Capt. and Adjt., 1812.
- BYRON, George Rochfort. Ensign, 1854. Joined the 63rd Regiment (now 1st Battalion Manchester Regiment), 1855.
- CAILLAND, John, Aston Rowant House, Oxon. Lieut.-Col., 1778. Died, 1812.
- CARTER, George Tilson, Watlington Park, Oxon. Lieut., 1869; resigned, 1872.
- CARTER, Harry Lee. Paymaster, 1855; resigned, 1858. Previously in the 6th Dragoon Guards.
- *CARTWRIGHT, Aubrey Ralph Thomas, eldest son of A. T. C. Cartwright, Esq., Edgcote, near Banbury. 2nd Lieut., 1898; Lieut., 1899.

- CHASE, Edmund. Lieut., 1808.
- CHICHESTER, Allan George. Sub.-Lieut., 1875. Joined the Royal Irish Regiment, 1878, in which he is now a Major.
- CHURCHILL, John Ellis. Ensign, 1834.
- CLAY, T. Quartermaster, 1797.
- CLARK, Lewis Trelawny. Ensign, 1855; resigned, 1856. Previously in 21st Fusiliers.
- CLERY, Henry Allan. Ensign, 1858; resigned, 1860.
- CLINTON, Charles J. Capt. and Adjt., 1805.
- COLE, Edward Campbell Stuart, Stoke Lyne, Devonshire, now living at 14 Cromwell Road, West Brighton. Lieut., 1853; Capt., 1857; resigned, 1858. Is a D.L. for Oxfordshire.
- COLE, Edward Henry, Stoke Lyne, Oxfordshire. Capt., 1825. Was a J.P. for Oxfordshire. Died, 1858.
- COLEMAN, Walter Thomlinson, Langley Fitzurse, near Chippenham, Wilts. 2nd Lieut., 1879; Lieut., 1881; resigned, 1886, and afterwards joined the 3rd Wiltshire (Militia), in which battalion he is now a Captain.
- CONSTABLE, William C. Brown. Ensign, 1854; Lieut., 1855; resigned, 1858, subsequently joining the Forfarshire Militia.
- COOCH, Robert. Lieut., 1798.
- COOK, Arthur Bott. Lieut., 1871; Capt., 1873; Major, 1885; Hon. Lieut.-Col., 1889; retired, 1894, with the honorary rank of Lieut.-Colonel. Died, 1899.
- COOK, Charles. Ensign, 1826.
- COTTERELL, Thomas R. Assist.-Surgeon, 1852.
- COX, Thomas Philip. Quartermaster, 1818.
- CRAWLEY, Charles Edward. Lieut., 1854; resigned, 1857.
- CROWDER, Thomas Mosley. Ensign, 1857; Lieut., 1858; Capt., 1859; Major, 1868; Hon. Lieut.-Col., 1878; retired, 1885, with the honorary rank of Lieut.-Colonel. Died, 1892.
- CUMING, George. Capt. and Adjt., 1851; retired, 1862. Previously a Captain in 71st Regiment (now 1st Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry).
- CURZON, Henry. Major, 1811.

DALMER, George. Lieut., 1811. Died, 1830.

DARELL, Lionel Edward Hamilton Marmaduke, eldest son of Sir Lionel Darell, Bart., Fretherne Court, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire. 2nd Lieut., 1894; Lieut., 1895. Joined 1st Life Guards, 1899, in which regiment he is now a 2nd Lieutenant.

DASHWOOD, Frederick Loftus, 7 Morpeth Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W. Capt., 1846; resigned same year and joined 16th Lancers, from which regiment he retired as Captain and joined the Oxfordshire Yeomanry as Adjutant, 1857. Placed on retired list as Major, 1874. J.P. for Oxfordshire.

DASHWOOD, Sir George John Egerton, Bart., Kirtlington Park, Oxfordshire. Capt., 1880; Hon. Major, 1891; resigned, 1896. Previously in the Scots Guards. D.L. and J.P. for Oxfordshire.

DAVIS, John W. Lieut., 1876; Capt., 1885; resigned, 1889.

DAVIS, William. Lieut., 1803. Died, 1846.

DEGWEEDE, John. Lieut., 1803.

DENFORD, Charles. Lieut., 1811. Died, 1866.

DENTON, Alexander. Ensign, 1778.

DEWAR, William Wemyss Methven, Cotmore House, Bicester. Lieut., 1853; Capt., 1853; resigned, 1858. Is a D.L. and J.P. for Oxfordshire.

DEWAR, Arthur William, eldest son of the above. 2nd Lieut., 1879. Joined the 10th Hussars, 1880.

DILLON, Hon. H. Augustus, afterwards the 13th Viscount Dillon. Capt., 1798. Died, 1832.

DILLON, Hon. Gerald Normanby, son of the above. Capt., 1851; resigned, 1852. Died, 1880.

DILLON, Hon. Harold Arthur, now the 17th Viscount Dillon, Ditchley, Enstone, Oxfordshire. Capt., 1874; Hon. Major, 1885; resigned, 1891. Previously in the Rifle Brigade.

DILLON, Hon. Conrad Adderly, brother of the above, 53 Oakley Street, Chelsea, S.W. Ensign, 1863; Lieut., 1865; resigned, 1867.

DOBIE, C. F. Lieut., 1882. Joined the South Yorkshire Regiment, 1885; now a Captain in Indian Staff Corps.

- DODSWORTH, Frederick C. S. Sub-Lieut., 1876. Joined 11th Regiment (now the Devonshire Regiment), 1877.
- DORMER, John Lord. Capt., 1803. Died, 1826.
- DORMER, J. H. Upton Cottrell, Cokethorpe, Witney, Oxon. Lieut., 1885; Capt., 1895; resigned, 1895.
- *DOUGLAS, Hon. Charles William Sholto, second son of the Earl of Morton, Cognalen, Ardgour, Argyllshire. 2nd Lieut., 1898.
- D'OYLEY, Charles. Lieut., 1778; Capt., 1779.
- DOYNE, Robert Wentworth, eldest son of Charles Mervyn Doyne, Esq., Wells, County Wexford. 2nd Lieut., 1888; Lieut., 1890; Capt., 1896; resigned, 1897.
- DUDLEY, Samuel. Capt. and Adjt., 1823. Previously in the 11th Light Dragoons.
- DU VERNET, Arthur William. Lieut., 1872; resigned, 1874.
- EDEN, Frederick Morton. Lieut., 1853; Capt., 1856; resigned, 1857.
- EDWARDS, John Pusey. Lieut., 1798.
- EDWARDS, Price. Capt., 1803.
- ELDRIDGE, T. Y. Lieut., 1798.
- ELWES, Robert H. Sub-Lieut., 1875. Joined the Grenadier Guards, 1876, and was killed at Laing's Nek in the Transvaal War, 1881, whilst serving on the staff. He figures in Lady Butler's (Miss Thompson's) well-known picture, entitled 'Floreat Etona.' He turned to Monck, another old Etonian who was riding by his side, and said, 'Come on, Floreat Etona, we must be in the first place.' In another moment Monck's horse was shot, and Elwes himself fell dead.
- ENGLAND, Russell. Ensign, 1857. Joined 4th Hussars, 1858.
- EWART, John Cheney. Lieut., 1852; resigned, 1853.
- FALKINER, Sir Riggs, Bart., the 3rd Baronet. Capt., 1809. Died, 1850.
- FANE, G. A. Scrope. Capt., 1846; resigned, 1853.
- FANE, John, Wormsley, Oxfordshire. Capt., 1798; Major, 1803. He was High Sheriff of the County, 1835, and M.P. for Oxfordshire, 1824-31. Died, 1850.
- FANE, John William, Wormsley, Oxfordshire, eldest son of the above. Major, 1825; Lieut.-Col., 1847; Lieut.-Col.

- Commandant, 1862 ; retired, 1872. He was High Sheriff of the county, 1854, and M.P. for Oxfordshire, 1862-8 ; he was a D.C.L. ; and J.P. and D.L. for the county.
- FIELD, Spencer. Ensign, 1852 ; Lieut., 1853. Joined the 49th Regiment (now the 1st Battalion of the Berkshire Regiment), 1855.
- FIENNES, Hon. G. C. Twisleton Wykeham, eldest son of the 14th Baron Saye and Sele, Broughton Castle, Banbury. Sub-Lieut., 1876. Joined Royal Scots Fusiliers, 1880, now a Major in the 3rd (Militia) Battalion.
- FITZWILLIAM, George Charles Wentworth, Milton Park, Peterborough. Lieut., 1885. Joined the Royal Horse Guards, 1888.
- FLETCHER, John Lynch, the Grove, Crickhowell, Brecknockshire. Ensign, 1857 ; Lieut., 1866 ; Capt., 1873 ; retired, 1883, with honorary rank of Major.
- FORSYTH, Francis. Lieut., 1812.
- *FORTESCUE, Hugh C., 7 Albert Mansions, Northumberland Street, W. 2nd Lieut., 1878 ; Capt., 1891 ; Hon. Major, 1893 ; Major, 1896 ; Hon. Lieut.-Col., 1898.
- FREND, Edwin, 11 Palmeira Square, Brighton. Lieut., 1866 ; Capt., 1873 ; resigned, 1882.
- FULLER, Charles William. Ensign, 1846.
- FYLER, Frederick John Fane. Lieut., 1872. Joined 52nd Regiment (now 2nd Battalion Oxfordshire Light Infantry), 1874. Died in India, 1886.
- GARDINER, Samuel Weare, Combe, Whitchurch, Oxfordshire. Lieut., 1846 ; Capt., 1846 ; resigned, 1853. Served as High Sheriff of the county, 1849, and a D.L. and J.P. for Oxfordshire. Died, 1866.
- GARNETT, Taylor. Capt., 1808.
- GARSTIN, Charles James. Ensign, 1854 ; Lieut., 1856 ; resigned, 1857.
- GIFFORD, Nicholas. Lieut., 1855 ; Capt., 1858 ; resigned, 1862.
- GOLDFINCH, John. Capt., 1803 ; Major, 1812. Died, 1825.
- GOLDING, Henry Frank Ottè. Ensign, 1858 ; resigned, 1860. Previously in Royal London Militia.
- GOOD, S. Assist.-Surgeon, 1803.

- GORE, John. Lieut., 1781.
GORE, Hon. S. Fitz-Roy Ormsby (*see* Ormsby-Gore).
GORE, William. Lieut., 1778; Capt., 1781.
GRAHAM, Henry C. T. Ensign, 1855; resigned, 1855.
GRANT, Sweton. Lieut., 1812. Died, 1837.
GRAVES, John. Capt., 1806.
GREED, —. Capt. and Adjt., 1821.
GREENWAY, Randolph. Capt., 1781. Died, 1785.
GREENWOOD, Charles. Capt., 1805.
GRIFFIN, John. Lieut., 1808.
GRIFFITHS, John, Aston Street, Iffley Road, Oxford. Lieut. and Quartermaster, 1884; retired, 1894, with the honorary rank of Captain.
GROSVENOR, Hon. Hugh, eldest son of Lord Stalbridge, Motcome House, Shaftesbury. 2nd Lieut., 1897; Lieut., 1898. Joined 14th Hussars, 1899.
HACKETT, Walter. Ensign, 1858; Lieut., 1862; Capt., 1868.
HADEN, Samuel. Quartermaster, 1878; retired, 1880.
HALE, Thomas W. Lieut., 1854; resigned, 1854.
HALLETT, William. Capt., 1811.
HAMILTON, Alastair, son of the late Major Hamilton, R.A., Bitterne Grove, Southampton. 2nd Lieut., 1894; Lieut., 1895; Capt., 1898. Joined the Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1899.
HAMERSLEY, Hugh, Pyrton Manor, Oxfordshire. Capt., 1834. He served as High Sheriff of the county, 1840, and was chairman of the Quarter Sessions from 1864-78; a D.L. and J.P. for Oxfordshire. Died, 1884.
HAMERSLEY, W. Hugh, grandson of the above. 2nd Lieut., 1891; resigned, 1893.
HANSARD, Richard James. Assist.-Surgeon, 1854; Surgeon, 1855. Died, 1869.
HANSON, Gerald Stanhope, eldest son of Sir Reginald Hanson, Bart., 4 Bryanston Square, W. Lieut., 1886; resigned, 1889.
HARCOURT, Edward William, Nuneham Park, Oxfordshire. Lieut., 1862. He served as High Sheriff of the county, 1875, and was M.P. for Oxfordshire, 1878-86.
HARRISON, Edward Slater, Shelswall Park, Bicester. Lieut.,

1854; Capt., 1857; resigned, 1858. He served as High Sheriff of the county, 1882; is a J.P. for Oxfordshire, and late a Lieut.-Colonel in the Oxfordshire Yeomanry, which he joined after leaving the Militia.

HARRISON, Thomas Newton. Lieut., 1853; resigned, 1855.

HARTE, Albert Maxwell. Ensign, 1857; Lieut., 1859; Capt., 1865. Previously in the East Yorkshire Militia.

HAWES, Benjamin R. Lieut., 1874. Joined the 104th Regiment (now 2nd Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers), 1875, of which battalion he is now second in command.

HAWKINS, John. Lieut., 1812.

HAWLEY, B. B. Lieut., 1805.

HAYNES, Charles. Surgeon, 1781.

HECK, Thomas. Ensign, 1787.

HENLEY, C. F., son of E. F. Henley, Esq., 46 Upper Berkeley Street, London, W. 2nd Lieut., 1895; Lieut., 1897. Joined the Oxfordshire Light Infantry, 1898, in the 1st Battalion of which regiment he is now a Lieutenant.

HENLEY, Joseph Arthur, eldest son of Joseph John Henley, Esq., C.B., Waterperry, Oxon. Lieut., 1873. Joined 82nd Regiment (now the 2nd Battalion South Lancashire Regiment), 1875; now living in Ireland.

HERIOT, Warner, J. L., Hemingford Abbots, St. Ives, Hunts. Lieut., 1873; Capt., 1877; Hon. Major, 1888; Major, 1895; retired, 1896, with the honorary rank of Lieut.-Colonel.

HEWLETT, Valentine H. Ensign, 1831.

*HIRST, G. A. Capt. and Quartermaster, 1894. Previously Quartermaster of the 2nd Battalion.

HITCHENS, J. Lieut., 1798.

HOBHOUSE, Edward Isaac. Capt., 1853; resigned, 1853. Previously in the Coldstream Guards.

HOLLOWAY, Edward Vere. Capt., 1806.

HOLLOWAY, Pryce Agar. Capt., 1846.

HOLLOWAY, William Wykeham. Lieut., 1846; Capt., 1855; Paymaster, 1859; Quartermaster, 1866; retired, 1876. Died, 1899.

HOLT, Oliver Needham (afterwards Holt-Needham). 2nd Lieut., 1892; Lieut., 1894; resigned, 1896.

- HOWLAND, Robert. Lieut., 1778.
HOWSON, Thomas. Lieut., 1798.
*HUGHES, R. G. H. Capt. and Adjutant, 1896; Captain in the 2nd Battalion.
IMPEY, Michael Elijah. Capt., 1831; retired, 1852.
IRELAND, John J. Assist.-Surgeon, 1822; Surgeon, 1854; retired, 1855.
*JACKSON, H. N. 2nd Lieut., 1899.
JACKSON, T. D. 2nd Lieut., 1895; Lieut. 1896; joined the Royal Lancaster Regiment, 1897, in which he is now 2nd Lieutenant.
JAMIESON, John. Lieut., 1804.
JESSEL, Herbert Merton, 50 Mount Street, W. Lieut., 1885. Joined the 17th Lancers, 1886; now M.P. for South St. Pancras, and is a Captain in the Berkshire Yeomanry.
JOHNSON, J. Ensign, 1809.
JONES, J. H. Whitmore. Major, 1851. Died, 1853.
JONES, Leoline. Assist-Surgeon, 1813.
JONES, Winchester Henry. Lieut., 1853; resigned, 1854. Formerly in the 60th Rifles.
KAVANAGH, Patrick. Assist.-Surgeon, 1871; resigned. 1874.
KENT, John. Ensign, 1798; Surgeon, 1803.
KERRY, Henry William Edmond, Earl of, eldest son of the Marquis of Lansdowne, of Bowood Park, Wilts. 2nd Lieut., 1895. Joined the Grenadier Guards, 1896, in the 3rd Battalion of which regiment he is now a Lieutenant.
KEVILL-DAVIES, W. A. S. H. 2nd Lieut., 1898; resigned, 1899.
KING, Charles Frederick. Ensign, 1859; resigned, 1861.
LAMBERT, G. Quartermaster, 1802.
LAMBERT, Sir Henry Edward Francis, Bart., of the Lodge, Great Malvern. Capt., 1853; resigned, 1858. Died, 1872. Was a D.L. and J.P. for Oxfordshire.
LAMPET, William Lionel. Capt., 1810; retired, 1846.
LANGTON, William Gore. Lieut.-Col., 1781; Col. 1798. Died while still in command, 1847. He was for some years M.P. for the city of Oxford.
LAWRENCE, J. N. Ensign, 1802.

- LEE, John. Ensign, 1812.
- LEGGE, Compton. Lieut., 1859; resigned, 1871. Previously in the South Durham Militia.
- LENTHAL, John. Capt., 1778. Died, 1820.
- LETHBRIDGE, E. A. E. Capt. and Adj., 1894, from the 2nd battalion; resigned, 1896. Now serving with the 1st battalion.
- LLOYD, F. Sackville. Capt., 1794.
- LLOYD, Henry Olivier. Ensign, 1857; Lieut., 1858. Joined 23rd Regiment (Royal Welsh Fusiliers).
- LLOYD, W. G. 2nd Lieut., 1881; resigned, 1883.
- LOGAN. Ensign, 1804.
- LONSDALE, William. Lieut., 1836.
- LOWNDES, R. W. Selby. Lieut., 1869; resigned, 1871. Afterwards a Captain in the 3rd Battalion (Bucks Militia).
- LOWNDES, William, F. Capt., 1803.
- LUPTON, Thomas. Assist.-Surgeon, 1803.
- MCCCLINTOCK, Arthur George, eldest son of A. G. F. McClintock, Esq., of Rathvinden, Co. Carlow. 2nd Lieut., 1896; Lieut., 1897. Joined the 5th Lancers, 1899.
- MCCCLINTOCK, J. H. J., younger brother of the above. 2nd Lieut., 1898; Lieut., 1898. Joined the 18th Hussars, 1899.
- MACKENSIE, Austin, Northfield, Dumfriesshire. Lieut., 1874. Resigned, 1878, and afterwards joined 3rd Battalion Scots Fusiliers (Militia).
- MCNEILL, Angus J. 2nd Lieut., 1893; Lieut., 1894. Joined the Seaforth Highlanders, 1895, in the 1st battalion of which regiment he is now a Lieutenant.
- MAKINS, W. H. Son of Col. W. T. Makins of Rotherfield Court, Henley on Thames. 2nd Lieut., 1881. Joined 13th Hussars, 1885. Died, 1888.
- MANNERS, H. Ensign, 1803.
- MARSACK, Charles John. Capt., 1812. He lived at Caversham Park, Reading.
- MASON, Thomas. Lieut., 1778.
- MATTHEWS, Andrew Marriott. Capt., 1846; Major, 1864; retired, 1868. Previously in the Berkshire Militia. D.L. for Oxfordshire.

- MAUDE, H. Paymaster, 1802.
- MEADOWS, John. Quartermaster, 1857. Died, 1866.
- *MILTON, William Charles de Meuron, Viscount, of Coollatin, Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow. 2nd Lieut., 1891; Lieut., 1893; Capt., 1896. Is M.P. for Wakefield and has served as A.D.C. to the Viceroy of India.
- MITCHELL, P. Lieut., 1803.
- MOLLOY, J. Ensign, 1803.
- MOODY, Henry. Lieut., 1857; Capt., 1859; resigned, 1869.
- MOORE, F. W. Ensign, 1855; resigned, 1857.
- MUSGRAVE, Edward. Lieut., 1781.
- MUSGRAVE, Thomas Henry. Capt., 1831.
- MYNORS, A. C. Baskerville. Sub-Lieut., 1876. Joined the King's Royal Rifles, 1878, and died in Zululand, 1879.
- NASH, James. Ensign, 1826.
- NEEDHAM, O. Holt. (See HOLT.)
- NEWBERRY, Thomas. Capt., 1781.
- NEWELL, Samuel Percy. Lieut., 1797. Afterwards Captain in the 4th Regiment (now the Royal Lancaster).
- NEWTON, Joseph. Capt., 1781.
- *NORTH, A. K., son of North North, Esq., Newton Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale. 2nd Lieut., 1898; Lieut., 1899.
- NORTH, J. Assist.-Surgeon, 1809.
- NOYES, Edward Herbert. Ensign, 1857.
- O'BRIEN, E. A. Stafford. 2nd Lieut., 1890; Lieut., 1892. Joined the 8th Hussars, 1894, in which regiment he is now senior Lieutenant.
- ORMSBY-GORE, Hon. Seymour Fitz-Roy, son of Lord Harlech, of Brogyntyn, Oswestry. Lieut., 1886; resigned, 1890.
- ORVEN, Joseph. Lieut., 1778.
- OSMER, John. Capt., 1797.
- OWEN, Joseph. Lieut., 1778; Capt., 1781.
- PALMER, H. T. Titley. Surgeon, 1852; resigned, 1854.
- PARKER, George, Viscount, afterwards Earl of Macclesfield and Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire. Major, 1778.
- PARROTT, Thomas. Lieut., 1798.
- PAXTON, J. Assist.-Surgeon, 1810.
- PENNELL, H. Lee. 2nd Lieut., 1879. Joined the King's

Dragoon Guards, 1882, in which regiment he is now Senior Major. Serving as A.D.C. to Sir Patrick MacDonnell, G.C.S.I., Lieut.-Governor of the North-West provinces.

PERCHARD, John Boullier. Surgeon, 1778.

PERROT, Thomas. Capt., 1794; Major, 1803; Lieut.-Col., 1808.

PERRY, Samuel, of Woodroof, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. Ensign, 1857; Lieut., 1858; afterwards in 12th Lancers.

PEYTON, Algernon Francis, now Sir Algernon Peyton, Bart., of Swift's House, Bicester. Sub-Lieut., 1875; joined 3rd Hussars, 1876, and was afterwards in 11th Hussars; now Capt. and Hon. Major in the Oxfordshire Yeomanry. Served as High Sheriff of the county, 1896.

PHILLIPS, Matthew. Ensign, 1778.

PHILLIPS, Wyndham Francis. Ensign, 1858; Lieut., 1859. Resigned, 1862.

PING, J. Ensign, 1812.

PIPON, Thomas Ommaney. Capt., 1852. Resigned, 1855. Previously a Capt. in 1st Dragoon Guards.

PONSONBY, G. M., son of Canon the Hon. M. J. G. Ponsonby, vicar of New Swindon. 2nd Lieut., 1896; Lieut., 1897. Joined the Warwickshire Regiment, 1898, in which he is now a Lieutenant.

POWYS, Henry Philip. Capt., 1814.

PREEDY, Charles James. Lieut., 1820. Died, 1851.

PRICE, Benjamin. Capt., 1811.

PRINCE, Thomas. Lieut., 1779; Capt., 1781.

PULTENEY, Richard M., now living at 31 Boulevard Victor Hugo, Nice. Capt. and Adj., 1876, from the 2nd Battalion; retired, 1880, and was appointed Captain in the battalion; Hon. Major, 1886. Resigned, 1892, with the honorary rank of Major.

*PULTENEY, Richard P., eldest son of the above. 2nd Lieut., 1889; Lieut., 1891; Capt., 1895.

PULTENEY, William P., D.S.O., younger brother of Richard. 2nd Lieut., 1878; joined the Scots Guards, 1881; now a Major in the 1st battalion of that regiment and has served with distinction in Uganda and elsewhere.

PYE, John. Adj., 1806.

- RAITT, William Frederick. Lieut., 1854; Capt., 1858. Resigned, 1859. Previously a Lieutenant in the 96th Regiment (now 2nd Battalion of the Manchester Regiment).
- RALPH, William Nichol. Quartermaster, 1855. Previously a Captain in the 2nd Regiment (now the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment). Died, 1856.
- RAMSAY, Edward, Croughton Lodge, near Brackley, Northamptonshire. Ensign, 1857; Lieut., 1859; Capt., 1865. Resigned, 1873. Previously for two years in the Northampton Militia.
- RANDALL, William. Quartermaster, 1803.
- REILLY, John. Capt. and Quartermaster, 1808. Retired, 1884, with the honorary rank of Major.
- ROADS, John Reynolds. Lieut., 1809.
- ROBERTS, Robert. Assist.-Surgeon, 1812. Died, 1847.
- ROBINSON, George North. Surgeon, 1810. Retired, 1852.
- ROBINSON, Hercules A. Temple, now Lord Rosmead, 42 Princes Gardens, S.W. Lieut., 1885; joined the Royal Irish Fusiliers, and is now a captain in the 3rd (Militia) battalion of that regiment.
- ROBINSON, Sydney L. Sub-Lieut., 1877; joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 1879, and was a Major in 1st battalion of that regiment when killed at Magersfontein, Transvaal War, December 11, 1899.
- ROE, Charles. Surgeon, 1780.
- ROLLINSON, Lock. Capt., 1778.
- ROSS, Charles. Ensign, 1807.
- ROWLEY-CONWAY, Maurice William Glyn, eldest son of C. G. H. Rowley-Conway, Esq., Bodrhyddan, near Rhyl. 2nd Lieut., 1891; Lieut., 1893; Capt., 1896. Resigned, 1897.
- RYCROFT, C. M. R., son of the late Sir Nelson Rycroft, Bart., Dummer House, Hants. Lieut., 1885; transferred to the 3rd Hampshire in the autumn of the same year, and afterwards joined the Somersetshire Light Infantry. He died at Mian Mir, India, Jan., 1897.
- SCOTT, William. Lieut., 1813.
- SCOTT, W. G. L. M. Douglas, Cotterstock House, Oundle,

- Northants. 2nd Lieut., 1889; Lieut., 1891. Resigned, 1894.
- SETON, Henry James. Lieut., 1872; joined the Royal Irish Rifles, 1874, and is now second in command of the 2nd battalion of that regiment. Seriously wounded at Stormberg, Transvaal War, Dec. 10, 1899.
- SEVERNE, Edmond Wigley. Ensign, 1855; Lieut., 1857; Capt., 1858. Resigned, 1864.
- SHUM, Arthur Frederick. Lieut., 1846.
- SPARKE, John Francis Astley. Capt. and Adj., 1862; resigned, 1876, and appointed captain in the battalion; retired, 1880. Previously in the 4th Light Dragoons and 84th Regiment.
- SPENCER, Lord Charles. Col., 1778; resigned, 1798; was M.P. for Oxfordshire, 1768 to 1801. Died, 1820.
- SPENCER, Hon. Henry George. Capt., 1846; Major, 1847. Died, 1851.
- SPIENS, William. Ensign, 1781.
- STEPHENS, William. Surgeon, 1797.
- STOCKFORD, David. Paymaster, 1803.
- STONE, W. Lowndes. Capt., 1804. Served as High Sheriff of the county, 1834; was a D.C.L. and D.L. for Oxfordshire. Died, 1858.
- STONOR, Hon. Thomas E. Lieut., 1846; Capt., 1846. Resigned, 1852; was J.P. for Oxfordshire. Died, 1865.
- STORER, Anthony Morris, Purley Park, near Reading. Capt., 1834; Major, 1853. Retired, 1868.
- STOREY, Thomas Kemp. Lieut., 1846. Resigned, 1852.
- STOUGHTON, Anthony. Capt., 1809.
- STRATTEN, J. Capt., 1803.
- STRINGER, Joseph. Capt. and Adj., 1778.
- TALBOT, C. F. Capt., 1805.
- TALBOT, H. A. C. 2nd Lieut., 1888; Lieut., 1890; resigned, 1894. Now in holy orders in the Roman Church.
- TALBOT, John. Capt., 1794.
- TAUNTON, Ernest H. O. Lieut., 1875. Resigned, 1881.
- TAYLOR, Edward. Lieut., 1778.
- TELFON, J. H. Lieut.-Col., 1803.
- THOMPSON, Henry F. D. Sub-Lieut., 1877. Resigned, 1886.

- THOMPSON, William Allin. Assist.-Surgeon, 1869. Resigned, 1870.
- TILLSON, John Henry. Capt., 1794.
- TOMPSON, Edward C. S., Dromenagh, Uxbridge. Lieut., 1863; Capt., 1870. Retired, 1885, with the honorary rank of Major.
- TOOVEY, Thomas, Joyce Grove, Nettlebed, Oxon. Capt., 1793. Served as High Sheriff of the county, 1802.
- TOWNSHEND, Charles Thornton. Ensign, 1858; resigned, 1859. Previously in the 3rd Middlesex.
- TURNER, John. Lieut., 1778.
- TURVILLE, Francis C. F. Lieut., 1852; Capt., 1853. Resigned, 1859; afterwards made a C.M.G.
- TURVILLE, George Fortescue. Capt., 1803. Died, 1859.
- UTTERTON, John. Capt., 1806.
- VASSAR, James John. Ensign, 1778; Lieut., 1781.
- VELLEY, Thomas. Major, 1781; Lieut.-Col., 1798.
- WALL, Robert Martin Popham. Major, 1805; Lieut.-Col., 1811.
- WALLACE, Alexander. Ensign, 1778.
- WARDLE, H. Metcalfe. Capt., 1803.
- *WARNER, Thomas Courtney Theydon, Highams, Woodford, Essex. 2nd Lieut., 1878; Capt., 1891; Hon. Major, 1894. Is M.P. for the Lichfield Division of Staffordshire.
- WASTIE, Francis. Lieut., 1783. Capt., 1786.
- WATSON, Bernard Lindsey. Lieut., 1813; retired, 1852.
- WATSON, N. Adjutant, 1802.
- WATTS, Robert George. Assist.-Surgeon, 1855. Resigned, 1861.
- WEBB, T. B. Lieut., 1798.
- WEYLAND, John, Woodeaton House, Oxon. Capt., 1778; Major, 1780. Served as High Sheriff of the county, 1777. Died, 1825.
- WEYLAND, Richard, Woodeaton House, Oxon. Capt., 1803; afterwards joined the 16th Light Dragoons, in which regiment he became a major, and served with it in the Peninsula and at Waterloo; M.P. for Oxfordshire, 1831-37; J.P. and D.L. for the county. Died, 1845.

WHEATLEY, Richard. Capt., 1803.

*WHITE, S. G. R., son of Rev. Cecil White, Rector of Nursling, Hants. 2nd Lieut., 1899.

WILDEY, James. Ensign, 1809; Lieut., 1812. Died, 1831.

*WILLAN, Frank, Thorn Hill Park, Bitterne, Hants. Lieut., 1873; Capt., 1875; Hon. Major, 1888; Major, 1891; Hon. Lieut.-Col., 1893.

WILLAN, Frank Godfrey, eldest son of the above. 2nd Lieut., 1896; Lieut., 1898; joined the King's Royal Rifles in 1899, in the 2nd battalion of which regiment he is now a 2nd Lieutenant.

*WILLAN, Robert Hugh, brother of the above. 2nd Lieut., 1899.

WILLIAMS, Benjamin. Capt., 1853; resigned, 1856. A J.P. for Oxfordshire.

WILLIAMS, Charles Henry Bennett, Knowlton Hall, Ellesmere, 5th son of Sir Hugh Williams, Bart. Sub-Lieut., 1874; Lieut., 1876; Capt., 1884; Hon. Major, 1889; resigned, 1895. He was seconded in 1879 for service in South Africa, first with Lonsdale's horse and subsequently with the 94th Regiment in the Zulu War and operations against Sekukuni and the storming of his stronghold.

WILLIAMS, George. Quartermaster, 1778.

WILLIAMS, John, Scorrier House, Cornwall. 2nd Lieut., 1881; Lieut., 1883; resigned, 1892. Now in the Devon Yeomanry.

WILLIAMS, Robert ap Hugh, of Plasgwyn, Anglesey, third son of Sir Hugh Williams, Bart., and elder brother of C. H. B. Williams (above). Lieut., 1874; resigned, 1884, and joined the Royal Anglesey Engineer Militia as a captain the same year. He met with a severe accident in 1897, which proved fatal.

WILLIAMS, William. Lieut., 1805.

WILLIS, W. G. Ensign, 1813.

WILLOUGHBY, Bertie. Ensign, 1855; resigned, 1857.

WILSON, Robert Brooke. Ensign, 1813; joined the 62nd Regiment (now 1st Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment).

- WINTER, Thomas Robinson. Lieut., 1831. Died, 1835.
- WITHINGTON, Frederick Edward, eldest son of the Rev. E. Withington of Fringford Lodge, Bicester. Lieut., 1886; Capt., 1892; resigned, 1899.
- WOOD, George. Lieut., 1798.
- WOOD, Henry. Ensign, 1798.
- WOOD, John Nicholas Price, eldest son of J. B. Wood, Esq., Henley Hall, Ludlow. 2nd Lieut., 1895; joined 12th Lancers, 1896, in which regiment he is now a Lieutenant.
- WOOD, William Percival. Lieut., 1871; Capt., 1873.
- WORDLE, H. M. Capt., 1803.
- WYKEHAM, Wenman Aubrey, now W. A. Wykeham-Musgrave, Thame Park, Oxfordshire. Ensign, 1862; Lieut., 1864; Capt., 1869; resigned, 1870. Served as High Sheriff of the county, 1884; a D.L. and J.P. for Oxfordshire.
- WYNTER, C. P. 2nd Lieut., 1888; Lieut., 1890; joined the Suffolk Regiment, 1891, and is now in the Indian Staff Corps.
- YEOMAN, William. Ensign, 1779.

COMMANDING OFFICERS.

Lord Charles Spencer	from 1778 to 1798
William Gore Langton	„ 1798 „ 1847
Charles Oldfield Bowles	„ 1847 „ 1862
John William Fane	„ 1862 „ 1872
Hon. Algernon Sydney Arthur Annesley . .	„ 1872 „ 1891
Charles Rivers Bulkeley	„ 1891

PERIODS DURING WHICH THE REGIMENT HAS BEEN EMBODIED.

- From 1778 to March, 1783.
 „ December, 1792, to December, 1799.
 „ March, 1803, to February, 1815.
 „ December, 1854, to July, 1856.
 „ September, 1857, to February, 1860.

PLACES WHERE THE REGIMENT HAS BEEN STATIONED.

1778.	Reading.	} First embodiment.
1779.	Newbury.	
	Dover Castle.	
1780.	Tiptree Camp.	
1781-3.	Sherborne.	
	Roborough Camp.	
	Tavistock.	
	Oakhampton.	
	Crediton.	}
	Exeter.	
	Pendennis Castle.	
1784-91.	Oxford. Annual trainings.	

1792.	Reading.	} Second embodiment.
1794-5.	Blatchington, near Brighton.	
1796.	Sheerness.	
1797-8.	Ipswich.	
1799.	Ireland.	
1800-2.	Oxford. Annual trainings.	} Third embodiment.
1803-4.	Dover Castle.	
1805.	Colchester.	
1806-7.	Taunton.	
1809-10.	Gosport.	
	Littlehampton.	
1811-12.	Tower of London.	
1813-14.	Ireland—Bandon.	
	Carlisle Fort.	
	Camden Fort.	
	Spike Island.	
	Cove of Cork.	
1815.	Portsmouth.	} Fourth embodiment.
1820-31.	Oxford. Annual trainings.	
1832-51.	Disbanded. No trainings.	
1852.	Woodstock. Training.	
1853.	Oxford. „	
1854.	Portsmouth.	} Fifth embodiment.
1855-6.	Corfu.	
1857-8.	Woolwich.	} Fifth embodiment.
1858-9.	Aldershot.	
1859-60.	Dover.	
1861-6.	Oxford. Annual trainings.	
1867-8.	Aldershot. „	
1869.	Oxford. Training.	
1870-5.	Aldershot. Annual trainings.	
1876.	Minchinhampton. Training.	
1877.	Cowley Barracks, Oxford. Training.	
1878.	Aldershot. Training.	
1879.	Cowley Barracks. Training.	
1880-96.	Aldershot. Annual trainings.	
1897.	Churn, Berks. Training.	
1898.	Oxford. Training.	
1899.	Perham Down Camp, Salisbury Plain. Training.	

APPENDIX

SOME CHANGES IN UNIFORM, ACCOUTREMENTS, ETC. MADE BY ARMY ORDERS BETWEEN 1813 AND 1850.

July, 1813. Rank of Colour-Sergeant instituted.

July, 1815. Infantry arms to be browned.

August, 1822. Cloth trousers to be issued to the infantry instead of breeches.

October, 1822. The gorget to be worn by officers on all duties.

August, 1830. The gorget to be abolished.

Bands of infantry regiments to be dressed in white clothing with regimental facings.

The sergeants of infantry to be armed with fusils instead of pikes.

Officers of Household troops to continue to wear gold embroidery, all others gold lace only, Militia officers silver lace only.

— 1834. Red piping for infantry trousers introduced.

September, 1836. Coloured regimental lace abolished, but white lace allowed to be worn regimentally.

November, 1837. Soldiers not to wear side-arms when not on duty, but the bayonet-belt always when in regimentals.

— 1842. Percussion muskets introduced.

— 1845. New pattern (spear-point) sword to be used by infantry officers.

December, 1850. Lavender shade of infantry trousers abolished.

OXFORD : HORACE HART
PRINTER TO THE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Geyerd, H. H. H. H.



